PRESS CONFERENCES

of

THE PRESIDENT

1938 -- July 1 to Dec. 31

Henry M. Kannee,
Official Reporter.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #471,
At the site of the President's new home,
Hyde Park, New York,
July 1, 1938, 2.30 P.M.

RCB 11-8-55

THE PRESIDENT: Right there, that little vista (indicating) is the north of the Catskill Range. This (indicating) is the south of the Catskill. This (indicating) is the Sh~~o~~awangunk, through there. That (indicating), south through the field is the Hudson Highlands and northeast, back here, is the Berkshires. I can actually see into Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Q How did you pick this particular site?

THE PRESIDENT: I have been looking for it for twenty years. I was only able to buy it last year.

Q This is part of the forty acres you acquired?

THE PRESIDENT: No, that is just north of it.

Q How much of this particular property is yours?

THE PRESIDENT: Fifty acres this year and then, in that field you just came across, is a hundred and twenty acres.

Q Mr. President, have you set a date for receiving bids?

THE PRESIDENT: Bids have been received and awarded to the lowest bidder and the contractor is on the job today.

Q What is his name?

THE PRESIDENT: Adams-Faber.

Q What is the price, if I may ask?

THE PRESIDENT: $15,000.

Q It is going to be of field stone?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I have a lot of old walls in the woods that were put in there about a hundred and fifty years ago to keep the cattle in and I am just using the field stone out of those walls.

Q Is there enough there?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes. It will take about half a mile of wall.

Q When do you think it will be ready for occupancy?

THE PRESIDENT: About November, when it will be closed up.

Q Ready for the housewarming? (Laughter)

Q We will be up here Election Day, ready to celebrate.

THE PRESIDENT: We may do that.

That is the front porch (indicating) where those strings are and you are standing in the living room.

Q Are you going to clear out any of these trees?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, just like this (indicating).

Q And down there?

THE PRESIDENT: They are opening it up just gradually, only one tree at a time, so it won't take too much.

Then, over there, at the farther string are the two bedrooms and these strings are the kitchen and pantry. That is all there is.

Q All on one floor?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q You do not recall the dimensions?

THE PRESIDENT: The rooms are awfully small, all except the living room, and that is awfully big. The living room is 34 x 22. You see, that is the only room there is. That is the dining room and living room (combined).

Q Fireplace in both?

THE PRESIDENT: One big fireplace on the middle of one wall.

Q How high is this, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: 410 feet above the river.

Q Who owned this property and whom did you buy it from?

THE PRESIDENT: It was my neighbor, Mr. Newboldt, but I bought it from his neighbor.

Q What are you going to name it?

THE PRESIDENT: I think Dutchess Hill. This hill up here (indicating) is known as Dutchess Hill. Don't leave out the "t".

Q There is a spider on you, Fred (Storm).

THE PRESIDENT: Don't hurt him. It is bad luck.

Q Were there any Poughkeepsie bidders on the job?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, two, but they were not quite low enough.

Q Do you know who they were, if I may ask?

THE PRESIDENT: I have forgotten.

Q What is the architecture of the cottage?

THE PRESIDENT: Old Hudson River Dutch. The front roof sort of eases out over the porch in a curve. The porch is really a continuation of the roof.

Q Who is the architect?

THE PRESIDENT: I was and I had an associate, Mr. Henry Toombs, but his name had to go on the plans because I have not got a license to practice.

Q He is from Warm Springs, is he not?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Well, he has an office in New York and an office in Atlanta and an office in Warm Springs.

MR. McINTYRE: Will it be possible to get a copy of the plans for the photographers?

THE PRESIDENT: I asked Henry Toombs to make a little sketch and he will probably have it by the time we get back and then, by the time we get back, the walls will be about half way up and, if you want a story, they can get a picture and a photograph of the walls.

Q Is there going to be a cellar?

THE PRESIDENT: Only big enough for a heater.

Q Will there be outdoor picnic grounds?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so.

Q Will you have a swimming pool up here?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no; we need one.

Q Where is the well?

THE PRESIDENT: Right over there, by the house. We went down 180 feet and got very good water.

Q Is that an artesian well?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q How far is it from the other cottages?

THE PRESIDENT: About three quarters of a mile.

Q How are you going to keep the road open in the winter?

THE PRESIDENT: That problem has not been discussed yet.

Q And there isn't going to be a telephone out here?

THE PRESIDENT: Right. No.

Q Harkness (referring to Mr. Richard Harkness of the Philadelphia Inquirer) and I were confused; maybe we don't know. An artesian well is a flowing well, is it not?

THE PRESIDENT: No, this well does not flow. It comes to about 15 feet from the surface. It is a bored well. It is 180 feet deep through solid rock. Whether it is artesian or not, I do not know.

Q The artesian wells I knew were self-flowing and just piped out.

THE PRESIDENT: You had better look at it in the dictionary. I do not know whether artesian wells flow or not.

Q (Mr. Storm) Can we have a little Press Conference here, now?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure, what do you know?

Q We would like to know whether you would give us an itinerary of the western trip today. Mac (Mr. McIntyre) told us it is in shape and it would help us.

THE PRESIDENT: It is all right, if Mac would show it to me first.

(The stenographer was directed to produce the draft of itinerary. While he was so engaged one of the reporters asked a question with respect P.W.A. allotments.)

THE PRESIDENT: They have to the first of September to get their applications in and then they have to be in a position to start the work before the first of January.

MR. McINTYRE: I think we will have to change the date for the Fleet Review. Fred (Storm) and some of the boys put it on the fifteenth and we have got to back them up.

THE PRESIDENT: I would have to consult with the Commander in Chief of the Fleet first.

Did this old sailor put them (the Fleet) up in the Yosemite in his story?

MR. McINTYRE: I have not seen that one.

Q (Mr. Storm) I figured it out that we go to Yosemite on the fourteenth and review the Fleet on the fifteenth and then head down the line on the sixteenth.

THE PRESIDENT: The new plan is to put them in the new Hetch Hetchy Lake.

Q I have an inquiry on that. It says San Francisco is asking if there is anything from you replying to Mayor Rossi on Hetch Hetchy. Apparently there is a complaint to you about Secretary Ickes deferring further grants on this power project.

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to ask them down there (meaning to wire Washington).

Q This is what is called a double check, Mac (Mr. McIntyre) (referring to the fact that he had asked Mr. McIntyre the same question before).

MR. McINTYRE: As long as it was not a double cross. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Mac (Mr. McIntyre), at Oklahoma City there are two places, the stadium and the fair grounds. Which is it?

MR. McINTYRE: It is the fair grounds.

THE PRESIDENT: I could not have done it better myself.

Q (Mr. Storm) A judgeship for you there, after that. (Referring to Kannee)

Q District Police Judge. (Laughter)

MR. McINTYRE: You are not ready to announce that.

Q I noticed that copper went up to 9½ cents a pound. All the mines are closed. Would you care to comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Have you any plans for the Fourth of July?

THE PRESIDENT: Work.

Q All day?

THE PRESIDENT: No holiday for me. I have four days down there, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and we will try to make some appointments. I am going to have a bad four days.

Q If my wife heard I was working, she would say I was taking a runout.

THE PRESIDENT: All right, we will give you a workout on July fourth.

Q By the way, we have local appointments down there?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I have signed or vetoed every bill.

Q I have a query here, too. Someone wants to know if you want a new Mount Rushmore Memorial Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Getting back to this Gettysburg address we were talking about yesterday, is it going to be 252 words long, like Lincoln's?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I would say, at a guess, it will be about ten minutes or less than that.

MR. McINTYRE: It will be a brief address.

Q Tom Healy, who used to be a White House reporter, was telling me one time that they sent him up to Gettysburg in 1917 to cover the Fiftieth Anniversary --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Were the veterans there then?

Q The veterans, beingspryer then than they are now, they reenacted the Pickett charge, the idea was to get up to little Round Top, where the stone wall was, and stop and shake hands. Some of the veterans started to climb over the wall and the Union men said, "You never got over there," and they started to picking up rocks (and throwing them) and they had to call out the police.

Q (Mr. Trohan) I hate to spoil a story, from an eyewitness, but they did get over the rocks.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, you remember it.

Q (Mr. Trohan) I was there. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Are the brakes on the cars good? It is a terrible hill here. You will have to go down on the brakes.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #472,
Executive Offices of the White House,
July 5, 1938, 4.05 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: There is a large crowd today and good news.

Q (Mr. Storm) There is a big crowd out there.

THE PRESIDENT: And still they come.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Any news?

Q Mr. President, would you wish to make any general expression or comment regarding the visit to Washington of the Swedish Mission, the Prince and others?

THE PRESIDENT: I have done that all publicly.

Q Anything on the Aviation Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing yet. Probably, by not going to bed between now and Thursday night, I will have some appointments to announce.

Q Will you have some judgeships yet?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know.

Q Wages and Hours?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know yet. I will have to sit up all night.

Q Are you considering the name of Jerome Frank for a judgeship?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea.

Q The Star said you have.

THE PRESIDENT: I am within four or five feet of recommendations for judgeships, et cetera.

Q Can you tell us about the visit of Brownlow, Gulick and Merriam in connection with reorganization?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that is about all there was. It was in connection with reorganization. I think it should be made clear to everybody -- I think everybody knows it -- but we have to put the Executive Branch of the Government on a business basis and undoubtedly it will be done. We don't want to wait another forty years.

Q Mr. President, have you heard from Tydings, of Indiana?

THE PRESIDENT: What happened?

Q Senator Van Nuys?

THE PRESIDENT: I thought Tydings was from Maryland?

Q Governor Townsend, after sending a telegram, made the observation that he expected there would be no opposition from the White House to the proposal to nominate Van Nuys.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know because I do not know anything about it.

Q Do you think Governor McNutt does?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea.

Q As head of the Democratic Party, how do you like the proposed nomination of Senator Van Nuys? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: You had better consult an astrologer.

Q Mr. President, a week ago Saturday the eight heads of the largest motion picture exhibitors came to see you. Did you discuss block bookings?

THE PRESIDENT: Did not discuss any specific part, only the general problem of law enforcement.

Q Can you tell us some background as to what you proposed with respect to this conference that Mr. Mellett is holding today?

THE PRESIDENT: I thought that was pretty well covered, was it not, in Lowell Mellett's announcement and my letter to them this morning.

Has that been given out?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is anything more to add to that.

Q In Colorado Senator Johnson came out in support of Senator Adams, saying that he did so because he understands you --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Evidently he has been consulting an astrologer because I have not taken any part in it. I have not expressed an opinion to anybody. Same old story.

Q Do you expect to express an opinion with respect to Colorado?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea. I have given it no consideration whatsoever. So you cannot very well build the story on that. That makes it difficult, does it not? (Laughter)

Q May I revert to that reorganization for a moment? The Brownlow report was very comprehensive and covered a great deal of ground. Many of the things in the report were acceptable to Congress and one or two were not. Would you care to suggest anything along that line? Would you send up that report again?

THE PRESIDENT: I would put it this way, that between the House bill and the Senate bill, as they finally came out, there was undoubtedly the possibility of getting an exceedingly valuable reorganization law and that the country as a whole undoubtedly wants a reorganization law. Where it fell down in the House was on a very simple thing. It was on a question of detail. The average person -- not all, by any means, but a very large number were in favor of the principle and in favor of ninety per cent of the details but did not like ten per cent. Each one was thumbs down on a different ten per cent so it is merely a question of everybody getting together on it. That is that.

Q Do you still think that the General Accounting Office should be taken away from its present position in the Government and made part of the Treasury? That is, its functions?

THE PRESIDENT: Nobody ever recommended that, neither did I.

Q It is not well stated, of course, but do you still think that the General Accounting Office should have its functions very largely changed?

THE PRESIDENT: I never thought that.

Q A great many people thought you did.

THE PRESIDENT: No. In other words, there are two functions.

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Two separate functions, and those two functions ought to be separated. There should be, first, the function of checking on current expenditures as they go along and, secondly, there will be the Congressional function of checking on what has been done. That is the easiest way of putting it. In other words, it is just like a corporation. At the end of the year, the corporation hires an outside firm of chartered accountants to go over all their books and say whether they are right or wrong, what changes should be made in their bookkeeping, what might be changed in the course of the year. We want to do for the country exactly what every other corporation in the country does. You see, that is a little bit different.

Q Yes, sir.

Q I understand you talked to Secretary Sayre yesterday about the

Philippines report. Does that indicate any new development or was the report submitted to you.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, the report is very nearly ready -- not quite yet, as I understand it -- to be printed but its release will depend on the completion of the printing job, and the Government Printer is, as I understand it, so jammed with work that I sent a note over yesterday that I hoped that when this report is ready to go to him, which will be very soon, he will try to get it printed so we can all have copies.

Q Anything you can tell us about the efforts to stimulate exportation of wheat?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know. I have not heard a word on that for about three weeks. I have not talked to anybody about that.

Q Have you an opinion from the Attorney General about a man in Michigan convicted of murder and sentenced to die?

THE PRESIDENT: I have got to speak from memory. I got a report and word has been sent to the Governor of Michigan yesterday that our understanding is that Michigan has a death penalty and our -- this is all from memory -- and our Federal statutes require that where a state has a death penalty, that the death penalty of a Federal prisoner must be inflicted within that state, that we cannot remove the prisoner to another state except from a state which has no death penalty. I think that is the problem.

Q Was that conveyed to Governor Murphy?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yesterday I sent a letter.

Q Anything new on the Ambassadorship to Moscow?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Mr. President, do you intend to visit in South American countries on your cruise to the Pacific?

THE PRESIDENT: No, only the Galapagos Islands.

Q Can you tell us of anything you specifically talked about with the TVA directors today?

THE PRESIDENT: We talked over the general situation of going ahead with current works and also we discussed the negotiations that are going on between the directors and the Commonwealth and Southern. There is nothing to be given out on that at the present time because it might hurt the negotiations.

Q Any discussion of the new directors for TVA?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Can you tell us where you will land on your return from the trip?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope Pensacola. I haven't been to Pensacola in twenty-five years.

Q Are you going down to the San Blas Islands?

THE PRESIDENT: No. If I went there I would take you with me. (Laughter)

Q I have got it all fixed up. I don't want to go back.

THE PRESIDENT: That is where they have the blonde Indians. (Laughter)

Q Well, the last time I was there I did not see any blondes. (Laughter)

Q Is the Cocos Island still in?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, on the way back from Galapagos.

Q Are you going to Warm Springs?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q What place in South Carolina will you visit?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know if we are even stopping there. We have not got that far.

Q Do you plan to spend any time in Warm Springs?

THE PRESIDENT: Get there in the morning and leave there late that night.

Q Will the United States give any definite plan to the Refugee Conference, convening in France tomorrow at the instigation of this Government?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know; I cannot answer. You had better ask the State Department. I think they have heard on the question of a plan from Mr. Myron Taylor but I am not sure.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Everything all quiet. I hope you have a good time while I am away. Happy holiday.

NOTE:

Press Conferences Nos. 473 and 474 were held while en route across the Isthmus of Panama, one aboard ship and the other on the train. Mr. Learson reports that both of these Press Conferences were over before he was notified, consequently no transcript is available.

Fc13 - 11-9-55

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #475,
Aboard the U.S.S. HOUSTON in Pensacola Harbor,
Tuesday, August 9, 1938, about 3.00 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Here is the old crowd. Glad to see you. Fred, (Storm) did you have a good flight?

Q (Mr. Storm) A grand flight.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know anything that you don't know.

Q You know lots of things we would like to know.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the most interesting thing -- I will tell you what you might do, here is a suggestion: See Dr. [Schmitt] Schmidt before he leaves the ship to give you a story. He can read to you his preliminary report that he has made on various things that he discovered with the aid of the ship's company. He has made a really remarkable collection of all kinds of marine invertebrates and animals. We have on board two kids -- goats, I meant, that kind of kids -- descended from Commodore Porter's goats that he released on James Island in 1813. They are the ship's mascots. And Dr. [Schmitt] Schmidt also has a live iguana and a live hog and two live snakes. And we think we have discovered quite a number of other new specimens of fish and other things that they have never known in that particular habitat before. The ice boxes are filled with a complete collection of all kinds of things in bottles and on ice. Dr. [Schmitt] Schmidt is shipping them right through to the Smithsonian tonight.

Really, it has been very successful from his point of view. It has added material to the National Museum's collections and for a scientist to be completely satisfied with what he has found is pretty good evidence that he was successful.

Q Do you want to say anything about the results (of the election) up in Kentucky?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It is about what I expected.

Q Mr. President, have you completed the two speeches that you are going to make at Athens and --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, I completed one and I am about half way through the other.

Q When may we expect to have them? Could you give us any hint as to what we should expect?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Will you stop in South Carolina on your way up?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I will go out on the train platform and say, "How do you do?" before we go to bed. That will be Spartanburg or probably Greenville.

Q I have a query as to your plans up at Huron. Don't you go there in September sometime -- Michigan?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no; I have no plans. I have various invitations but I won't make any plans for another two weeks. I have not got any plans except up to the nineteenth of August. I will go up on the seventeenth to Kingston (Ontario) to the University and motor over to the Thousand Islands Bridge, dedicating it in the afternoon with the Premier, getting on the train at Clayton and getting to Hyde Park the morning of the nineteenth.

Q Do you plan to stay at Hyde Park any length of time?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably ten days.

Q Speaking of Hyde Park, have you decided whether you will remain in

Washington from the twelfth to the seventeenth or go to Hyde Park?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know, George (Mr. Durno) but I will probably stay in Washington. There is an awful lot of stuff to sign. I have been approving a great many of Mr. Hopkins' projects by radio and now I have got to make good.

Q Have you any comment to make on the Japanese-Russian situation?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not got anything that you have not got.

Q Do you have any comment to make on permanence for the Pensacola Naval Air Station? There has been something said in the past that there might be divisions transferred to Miami or other places?

THE PRESIDENT: I never heard of it. It is a perfectly grand station. You know I am the Godfather of it; I reopened it in 1914.

Q You do not know of any proposed transfer of any division of it elsewhere?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not that I have heard of.

Q Any luck down in New Providence?

THE PRESIDENT: No; very little fishing. It is a terribly interesting place. They climbed up to Sir Henry Morgan's Fort, the old Spanish fort. We came ashore and saw the inhabitants. It is one of the most beautiful islands I have ever seen.

Q That is not in the Bahamas?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it is off the coast of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, way out at sea, and belongs to Colombia. Colombia owns two islands up there. The other is San Andres. There are about two thousand people on Providencia and about three thousand people on San Andres. They raise coconuts and cattle and all kinds of fruits. They are self-sustaining and a very interesting community. Many of them undoubtedly descended from the old Buccaneers.

Q We made an 85-mile drive into the interior of Panama, up to a beach called La Venta, where the Army has just started to build a new air field. I was amazed at the cattle industry of the country.

THE PRESIDENT: It is perfectly tremendous. That is one of the things down there that I talked with the President of Colombia about three or four years ago. It is such a good cattle country when you get above 2,000 or 3,000 feet that it would be possible to raise all the beef that is sold to the ships coming through the Canal, instead of bringing in the beef from thousands of miles away.

Q They could find a ready market for it to the Army in Panama.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and of course practically every ship going through the Canal buys some fresh supplies.

Q Most of us have not seen you since you left San Diego. Any reaction from your western trip at all?

THE PRESIDENT: No, only what has come over the radio.

Q Have you heard anything about how McAdoo is making out?

THE PRESIDENT: No, only the stuff that came over the radio. Radio news which is mostly --

MR. McINTYRE: Mostly international affairs?

THE PRESIDENT: -- what company -- Transradio mostly.

CAPTAIN CALLAGHAN: It is called Transradio Press, but we just pick that up, sir, when we run into it. The ship is not a subscriber to the service.

Q The Government puts out a service for Marine --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Occasionally we pick up a U.P. story.

Q Just occasionally, Mr. President?

Q They get about, after all. (Laughter)

Q Any preliminary message for the people of Georgia? They are rather excited up there, as you know.

THE PRESIDENT: Are they? (Laughter)

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Are they really excited or only said to be excited?

Q They do not show it, of course. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the newspapers have to live, you know.

Q On the two speeches in Georgia, could we know generally whether politics will be mentioned or not?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't know. You see, they are not finished. They only have been written in longhand and the first process -- in fact, one is not finished. The first process is for poor old Kannee to transcribe it into a rough draft and then you cannot tell what I will do to the rough draft.

Q Make it rougher, Mr. President. (Laughter)

Q Will you make advances?

THE PRESIDENT: I will have Steve (Mr. Early) and Mac (Mr. McIntyre) both on board. I take it I will be forced to give you an advance. I am going to have a bad time. They will be after me day and night.

Q He wanted to know if the rough draft of that Georgia speech would be made rougher when completed? (Laughter)

Q Do you expect to see anybody at Warm Springs, any politicians or conferences or anything of that sort?

THE PRESIDENT: Nobody at all. I am going to lunch with the Foundation, with all the children, and probably dine with Dr. Boone, and then go back on board the train after supper.

Q When do you expect to see your new namesake?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I haven't the faintest idea.

Q Any comment on the appearance of the Station (Pensacola)?

THE PRESIDENT: Everything tells me that it is well kept up.

Q How was the fishing on this trip?

THE PRESIDENT: Very good on this cruise. The whole Presidential Party made records and sixty different varieties of fish were caught today. Some of them have not been identified yet.

Q Any comments on the general labor situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing at all. I have not had any news about anything.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference#476,
Executive Offices of the White House,
August 16, 1938, 4.07 P.M.

Q How do you do, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: How are all the boys? Glad to see you.

Q It has been a long time.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, it has been a long time. Have you had a good time, any holiday?

MR. YOUNG: I took two weeks out in Santa Monica.

MR. STORM: Just looking over some of his properties, Mr. President. (Laughter)

MR. YOUNG: Oil properties.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I thought it was orange groves.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I am glad -- I cannot say I am glad to be back (the outside temperature was 96°) but I am glad to see you all again.

We have a new member of the White House family that some of you on the Coast met, Commander Dan Callaghan. Stand up, Dan, and let them see you. You will all get to know him and Commander Callaghan can look you all over and report to me afterwards what he thinks. I can tell him now that you improve on acquaintance. (Laughter)

I do not think I have anything in particular. The United States Tariff Commission, in pursuance of the general policy of trying to get as many of the independent agencies under the Civil Service as possible,has made an arrangement with the

Civil Service Commission which will place all of its hitherto excepted expert positions under the classified Civil Service. That is just a step in the general direction. I think they have a release on that over there.

Q Is that hitherto experts under the Civil Service?

THE PRESIDENT: Hitherto excepted expert positions. They are now to be put under the Civil Service.

Q Mr. President, have you anything to say about the forthcoming primaries in New York where Congressman O'Connor is running against Jim Fay?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I guess so. This is not collusive on the part of Fred and myself. (Laughter) I guessed that somebody --

MR. STORM: As a matter of fact, Mr. President, I had the dope last week down at Warm Springs that there was some movement on foot for you to sound off against Mr. O'Connor but I held it up too late and I was scooped in the Sunday morning papers.

THE PRESIDENT: I knew that somebody would ask the question so I have a perfectly good statement here. It is long. I will read it to you and I will give it to Steve and he will give you copies so you won't have to take it down.

Q Will you read it slowly, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It is entitled, "Why the President 'Interferes.'" (Laughter)

And the first sentence is in quotes -- you will see why afterwards. The first sentence is this: (reading) "The President of the United States ought not to interfere in party primaries."

And then the second sentence is not in quotes. (Reading)

> That statement, in one form or another, is appearing these days throughout the Tory Press.
>
> The idea is that the President should be aloof from such sordid considerations as who wins the primaries in his own party. But actually these primaries will determine to a large extent the makeup of the next Congress. And that, in turn, will determine whether or not the President can keep his campaign promises to the people.
>
> Campaign promises are supposed to be the responsibility of the whole party. At least that's the theory. But in practice the head of the party alone is held responsible for them.
>
> In American politics any one can attach himself to a political party whether he believes in its program or not.

That is a hot one.

> We hear the phrase "read out of the party," but it doesn't mean anything. No one is read out of the Democratic or the Republican Party. There are many prominent Democrats today who are heart and soul against everything the Democratic Party has stood for since 1932. And those men are still in the party.
>
> What's worse, not one of them was candid enough to oppose the renomination of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1936, although after four years there was no doubt whatever as to the program Franklin D. Roosevelt was pursuing.
>
> The same hidden opposition, after giving the New Deal lip-service in 1936, turned around and knifed it in Congress in 1937 and 1938.
>
> Now that election time has come around again, the hidden opposition hides the ax behind its back and prepares to give the President lip-service once more.
>
> In those circumstances there is nothing for the President to do -- as the responsible head of the New Deal -- but to publicly repudiate those who have betrayed the New Deal in the past and will again.

If men like Senator Tydings of Maryland said frankly: "I no longer believe in the platform of the Democratic Party as expressed in the New Deal; I'm running for re-election as a member of the Republican opposition to the New Deal," then there would be no reason and no excuse for President Roosevelt to intervene against them.

The issue would be clear. The voter could take his choice between the New Deal and Tydings' record of consistent opposition to it. But Tydings tells the voters he supports the "bone and sinew" of the New Deal. He wants to run with the Roosevelt prestige and the money of his conservative Republican friends both on his side.

In that case it becomes the President's right and duty to tell the people what he thinks of Millard Tydings.

That's why we welcome the report that Roosevelt help is going to be given to Tydings' opponent, Representative David J. Lewis, and to James H. Fay, candidate for the nomination in the Sixteenth Congressional District of New York.

Fay is running against Representative John J. O'Connor, one of the most effective obstructionists in the lower house. Week in and week out O'Connor labors to tear down New Deal strength, pickle New Deal legislation.

Why shouldn't the responsible head of the New Deal tell the people just that?

Q That is very mild. (Laughter)

Q It reads as though it was an editorial.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, it was an editorial, but it is my statement now.

Q How do we use that, as an answer to the question?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Is it to be in quotes, then?

Q Direct quotes?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Any others to be on the list?

THE PRESIDENT: Two, that is enough for one day.

Q I heard in Greenville -- you said you were coming back to South Carolina. Have you decided when that will be?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet; haven't got the date.

Q In connection with your statement, the Time Magazine has been running a series of letters from readers attempting to define the New Deal. One of them calls it Tammany Methods made Magnificent and another says it is the first genuine effort on the part of public-spirited officials to aid their less fortunate citizens over the apparent opposition of entrenched privilege. There are a lot of others.

THE PRESIDENT: I think nothing further than the one (definition) I gave a good many years ago -- about four years ago -- to the editor of the Vancouver Sun. I think that still holds good.

Q What was that?

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to look it up. You will find it, I think, in Volume III of my Public Papers.

Q Fifteen bucks per copy. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: But you will have to buy all five volumes and it will cost you fifteen dollars. (Laughter)

Q Do you expect to say a good word for Governor Murphy when you go up to Port Huron?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't any date at all after Thursday of this week.

Q Have you given up the idea of going up there?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't had any date beyond this Canadian trip.

Q When are you going to fill the vacancy on our Commission? (D. C.

Commission.) George Allen is going to leave us.

THE PRESIDENT: Not for a while. I wish he would stay.

Q He is going to stay on Public Works.

THE PRESIDENT: I wish he would stay on the Commission, too.

Q Have you thought of any successors?

THE PRESIDENT: Really haven't thought of it at all.

Q Donald Wakefield Smith's term expires the twenty-seventh. Are you going to announce his reappointment?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't any ready for announcement except the five members of the Alaska Highway Commission. I will have those this afternoon or tomorrow morning.

Q Will you discuss the proposed St. Lawrence Treaty up at the Thousand Islands on Thursday?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I have not prepared anything as yet. I have three or four suggestions in my desk as to what people would like me to say and I will probably write it on the way up on the train.

Q Have you any comment on the outcome of the Ohio campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except that it was about what I expected.

Q Would you care to comment on your reaction to your mail on the Barnesville speech -- mail reaction?

THE PRESIDENT: To tell you the honest truth there has been very little reaction one way or the other. I don't suppose I have had ten or fifteen letters on it. The weather is too hot, you know.

Q Any comment on Senator George's "Marching through Georgia" speech?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have got to be frank and tell you that I did not read it all. I agreed heartily with what he said about the primary down there being absolutely up to the Georgia voters because those were the same words I used myself.

Q Will you speak in the State of Maryland in favor of Congressman Lewis?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not got any dates beyond Thursday.

Q Any possibility for Pennsylvania.

THE PRESIDENT: As I say, I do not know.

Q On that line, Mr. Lawrence, the State Chairman, reported this week to the boys at Harrisburg, that when he and Governor Earle and Walter Jones were down here you expressed the desire to come to Pennsylvania to make at least one speech in their behalf.

THE PRESIDENT: I would like to go to lots of places.

Q Here is a rather torrid question: Referring to the statement regarding support for the Democratic platform, among the items in that class do you include your Court plan?

THE PRESIDENT: The Court plan was not in the platform but the Court plan is no longer an issue because, in effect, we obtained ninety-eight per cent of all the objectives intended by the Court plan. I made that clear on many occasions.

Q In other words, any disfavor you may hold to any member of the House or Senate is not based on the Court plan?

THE PRESIDENT: No. That is a perfectly fair statement. However, it won't prevent the continued use of the assertion, will it?

Q I hate to bother you with so much state politics but out in Kansas it looks like a pretty bitter fight between Clyde Reed and

Senator McGill. Mr. Reed supported you in 1936 and did not support Governor Landon. I wondered if you were going out that way any time in the fall?

THE PRESIDENT: Frankly, I have not heard anything about the Kansas situation.

Q Do you contemplate going into Wisconsin and Minnesota?

THE PRESIDENT: Really, it is honestly true that I have no plans and no dates after this coming trip. I suppose I have had invitations to go into forty-eight states, including Vermont and Maine. But I have no plans whatsoever.

Q Who asked you to go into Maine?

THE PRESIDENT: If you must know, I will tell you, my mother. (Laughter)

Q (drowned by the laughter) But she is in Campobello.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #477
(While the President was seated in his car after leaving the Presidential special train at Hyde Park Station, New York),
August 19, 1938, 8.45 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, what is the news? I don't know news or anything at all. I don't want to have any here -- just play around.

Q Any callers?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a caller.

Q There are stories out of Washington that the State Department is interpreting your speeches as an extension of the Monroe Doctrine.

THE PRESIDENT: How the Monroe Doctrine? They did not, neither did you and neither did anybody else.

MR. McINTYRE: I know one young man who did.

THE PRESIDENT: You see the point?

Q I never did know just what the application of it was.

Q Now you are getting into the realm of interpretation. Read the original language of the Monroe Doctrine.

Q Anything on politics, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a thing.

Q I see Mr. O'Connor (Congressman O'Connor, of New York) has accepted the challenge.

THE PRESIDENT: I saw the headlines and that's all; I have not read the story.

Q For some unknown reason, a lot of people are wondering what you are thinking of your neighbor across the river. (Referring to Father Divine's "Heaven") I was hoping somebody else would ask that.

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose the easiest way would be for you to go up on the front lawn and take a look and then you will see how silly the stories were. It is what they would call a thing manufactured out of whole cloth for public consumption. And -- in this particular case it is entirely off the record -- the New York Times was the worst offender. That is right, isn't it, Felix? (Mr. Felix Belair, Jr., of the New York Times)

Q A little out of proportion, I think.

THE PRESIDENT: In the first place, it is in a different county. Nobody ever mentioned that.

Q And it is across the river, too.

THE PRESIDENT: In the second place, it is 1800 feet -- this is off the record -- from one bank to another. But I think, as the crow flies, it is a mile and a quarter. In the third place, there are so many trees in the way. I think you can see the roof of the house, but that is all. So, the whole thing is pure bunk. That is all off the record. It is a good newspaper story, so why spoil it.

Q You are very generous.

Q I see we have our star left fielder with us. (Referring to John Roosevelt, who was seated beside the President in the car.)

THE PRESIDENT: He is holding out. He says this cash offer is all right but he wants a guarantee on hours and a living wage and he wants an expense account.

Q He wants to be a regular newspaper man.

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, he is still open to an offer.

Q Anybody today or tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think anybody. I think tomorrow somebody is coming -- I have forgotten who it is.

MR. McINTYRE: Henry Wallace.

THE PRESIDENT: Henry Wallace, yes, tomorrow.

Q How long will you be here?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea; either a couple of hours or overnight.

Q It is too hot to go to Washington.

THE PRESIDENT: It is going to be lovely here. Even in the Nelson House it will be all right.

(End of Conference.)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #478
At the home of the President, Hyde Park, New York,
August 23, 1938, 2.00 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I asked Captain Patterson to come in today just so he could see how you fellows operate. It is all right; you are all under observation.

MR. McINTYRE: Everybody on good behavior.

Q Chance for Conway to strut his stuff here.

THE PRESIDENT: I know nothing. I am sorry.

Q Are you going to Maryland?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no dates except -- what are my dates?

Q One in Chattanooga.

THE PRESIDENT: Chattanooga -- that is the only date I have got. No, I have got the seventeenth here. I haven't another date.

Q What is the seventeenth here?

THE PRESIDENT: Our 150th anniversary of the Constitutional Convention of the State of New York -- the ratification of the Federal Constitution.

Q When are you planning to go back to Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: I think either Sunday or Monday night -- but probably not until Monday night.

MR. McINTYRE: I think there is a mixup in those dates. I think it is the 135th anniversary.

THE PRESIDENT: No, the 250th anniversary of the first white settler in Poughkeepsie was the other.

Q No date in Baltimore?

THE PRESIDENT: I have absolutely no plans for next week. I don't know how long I am going to stay in Washington.

Q Some of your Maryland friends seem to resent the implication by Senator Tydings that you are a carpet bagger and they are wiring you to come to Maryland, regardless.

THE PRESIDENT: I dare say.

Q Governor Landon has been writing pieces for the paper. He said that, among other things, if his policies had prevailed that American people would know considerably more security today than they actually do.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I want to comment.

Q Can you tell us anything about your conference with Senator Pope over the weekend?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I can tell you what is actually the fact, that the chief question of discussion was a matter that involves public morality and rather interesting to me because a quarter of a century ago, when I first went to the Legislature of this State -- Heavens, more than that; it was 28 years ago that I was elected -- the burning issue in this State was whether we would adopt direct primaries or not.

A great many states had already adopted direct primaries in order to get rid of the old-fashioned form of boss-controlled conventions. So I took a great interest in the whole objective of direct primaries. The objective was a very simple one and has been subsequently carried out in very nearly every state of the Union. It was to give the actual voters within a party, in recognition of the party system under which we live, the right to choose their candidates for public office. And in every case in those days that I ever heard of some method was devised by which the primary within one party would be limited to the members of that party.

There were certain restrictions and definitions to carry out that purpose, for the very simple reason that a party primary, participated in even by a handful of people not belonging to that party, immediately became void and of no effect -- a complete destruction of the objective.

If, for example, in a contest within a party, one group within that party had 49% of the vote and the other group had 51% of the vote, it was entirely proper for the 51% to win. That was a fair expression of opinion. If, however, 2% or 3% of people from another party were to enter the primary of a party to which they did not belong, the will of the party voters could be completely overcome and destroyed.

Now, that is a question of simple political morality and the interesting thing to me is the fact that the Tory press in this country has overlooked a very interesting opportunity to work for decent political morality.

We have certain examples that we all know about. The figures in the State of Idaho, for example, show that whereas in 1936 the Republican primary vote was about 42,000 and the Democratic primary vote was about 55,000, this year the Republican primary vote was only 30,000 and the Democratic primary vote was about 85,000 which, of course, no matter how much you might try to hem and haw it off, was complete proof positive that the direct primary system was completely violated so far as morality went by the entrance of fifteen or twenty thousand Republicans into the Democratic primary.

There are two other illustrations: One is the letter which is now becoming famous by the Republican State Chairman of Georgia, calling on all Republicans in the State of Georgia to enter the Democratic primary.

Now, this has nothing to do with candidates. I am not mentioning the name of a single candidate. That has nothing to do with it. I am talking about the principle and the fact that it is being credibly reported that in Maryland Republicans are being begged to enter the Democratic primary.

I think it is something that ought to be of interest to all people who believe in the primary system -- of course there are still a lot of people who would like to go back to the boss-ridden convention system but I am talking about people who believe in direct primaries -- I think it is of interest to them to know of the destruction of the principle that is being carried on now without very much protest on the part of the Tory press.

Well, now, you have got a good story. Now it is in your hands.

But you have to make it perfectly clear that this comment of mine has nothing to do with the question of candidates -- individual candidates. I am talking about principles and I would say the same thing if Republicens in any state were to enter the Democratic primary with the object and purpose of helping somebody that I considered a close friend of mine -- it is exactly the same thing.

Now, that is going to be a damned hard story for John (Mr. O'Brien, of the Herald-Tribune) to write, for instance.

Q If a Democrat enters a Republican primary, as O'Connor has done, does that fall in the same category?

THE PRESIDENT: Certainly; Democrats ought not to enter Republican primaries. It certainly ruins the whole question of the primary. It is a question of A, B, C morality.

Q Did Senator Pope make any decision to run as an independent candidate?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea.

Q If he does go in, can he count on any help from you?

THE PRESIDENT: "If" question.

Q Can you tell us about your talk this morning with Mr. Martin and Mr. Duffy, of Vermont?

THE PRESIDENT: The chief topic of conversation was -- I don't know whether we can call it the "National Highway." It is the continuation of what we outlined four years ago, the development of President Hoover's Skyline Drive. President Hoover invented, in his administration, a great scenic highway from Washington, D. C., over a distance of seventy or eighty miles south into Virginia along the top of the Blue Ridge, and laid out a national policy which was to the effect that if the State would buy the land -- the right of way -- with a strip on each side so as to be a scenic parkway, then the Federal Government would build and maintain the highway on that land. Before I got to Washington most of the work, a very large part of the work, had been done on the Skyline Drive. We have been trying in the last five years to develop that idea for a highway extending from the Canadian line, at the north end of the Green Mountains, down through what really is the Blue

Ridge all the way. For instance, the Berkshires correspond to the Blue Ridge and you go across through the Hudson Highlands, at West Point, Bear Mountain, and then get on down to the Delaware Water Gap, and then that same range extends down to just west of Harrisburg, through Gettysburg and Harper's Ferry -- a little this side of Harper's Ferry, you know, where Braddock Heights is -- it is really the nearest point to Washington -- and then it goes on to Front Royal with the Skyline Drive and through Virginia and down to North Carolina, to the Great Smoky Park, and thence to Georgia, to the end of the Appalachian System, which is approximately Stone Mountain.

Q Mr. President, are you planning to go up to Vermont to inspect --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I have no plans.

Q -- to inspect the route that this might take?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no plans.

Q Have you come to any conclusions with Secretary Wallace about the export of that wheat?

THE PRESIDENT: Still talking about it this week in Washington.

Q Getting back to Maryland, have you received any invitations or requests to go down?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I have not seen this morning's mail. I believe there are some telegrams along the line you have been talking about.

MR. McINTYRE: There have been quite a few of them.

Q Mr. President, I have a rather selfish interest in asking this question: Have you thought about going to the Pan American Conference in Santiago this November?

THE PRESIDENT: I thought about it last spring and had hoped to be able to do it if I could get off in November, but it seems impossible to do it. It was only a hope and it never got any further than that, unfortunately.

Q Mr. President, speaking of the --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That will break somebody's heart in Panama, Fred (Storm). (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Storm) I take it in my stride, Mr. President. (Laughter)

Q Did you talk on Sunday, Mr. President, with Representative Kopplemann?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you saw me talk to him. He came over and said, "How do you do?" at the car, that is all.

Q Yes.

Q Is there anything special you plan to talk on at Moses Smith's place on Saturday?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I will tell them about catching fish.

Q Were these gentlemen from Vermont here as representatives of the State Government to discuss the Skyline Drive?

THE PRESIDENT: No. One is Democratic National Committeeman and the other is the Democratic candidate for Governor.

Q Your idea was cooperation between the State and Federal Governments?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. One reason was that frankly we haven't got very far in the State of Vermont on this plan.

Q Mr. President, are you coming back to Hyde Park on the sixth?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I may come back before that but I cannot tell.

Q I think the last time we were here you said you might have the architect's sketch of the new cottage.

THE PRESIDENT: We wrote to -- no, I will tell you this just for your own information: I got a letter from Henry Toombs asking if I had any objection to his printing the plans in the Architectural Record and I told Steve to tell him that it was all right just so long as you people got it at the same time as the Architectural Record so as to protect you.

Q So it will come down there anyway?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q How far is the construction work now?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we will go up there in the course of the next few days. One of the wings has the roof beams on. In another wing, the stones are almost up to the roof and the other wing is only a couple of feet above the ground.

Q Mr. President, did you send any kind of parting greeting to the delegates of the World Youth Congress which is winding up at Vassar College?

THE PRESIDENT: I hadn't thought of it at all. In fact, I did not know they were having their final meeting.

Q There is a report that you had asked Commissioner McNutt to take up with the Commonwealth Government (of the Philippines) the possibility of admitting 200 Jewish refugees.

THE PRESIDENT: Never heard of it; it is another pipe dream.

Q Have you figured out what proportion of the total press of the country would fall in the category of "Tory Press"?

THE PRESIDENT: If you will read Volume V of my works, you will find in a footnote that I estimated it to be 85%.

Q Five volumes, costing fifteen bucks. (Laughter)

Q You are speaking of circulation, are you not?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. This is daily press -- I am not talking about weeklies.

Q You meant circulation rather than number?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and I think you will find it works both ways, both the number of papers and circulation.

Q There was a study released, I think during the last week, giving the number of papers which support you as about 300 out of 800 of the larger papers.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe it.

Q That was a Gallup survey.

THE PRESIDENT: I still don't believe it.

Q (Mr. Storm) I have no drum to beat for them. I am merely volunteering a little information.

THE PRESIDENT: Outside of Catherine Patterson's paper I should say that probably if you took that total number of 300, which are for me, they would have the smallest circulation out of the 800.

Q 300, after all, is 40%, or something like that.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Well, it is not altogether impossible that you will go to Baltimore, or Maryland somewhere?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't any idea. I cannot even protect you, Felix (Mr. Belair). (Laughter -- Mr. Belair had written that the President would go into Maryland.)

Q I guess I will have to bat for Russ Young and Earl Godwin. Have you reached the point where you will appoint a District Commissioner?

THE PRESIDENT: No, and won't for some time.

[Donald Wakefield Smith]

Q Have you decided on the reappointment of Dan Smith to the National Labor Relations Board?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing on that yet, no news. On that general subject, just so you get the thing perfectly clear, of course Bill Green and I did talk about the Wagner Act and we agreed on a very simple thing: so as to make it clear again -- I am afraid there is not much of a face saver in this -- any new law creating a new agency of the Government is drafted with the objective of clarity, but no human draftsmanship can foresee situations that would arise in some particulars under a new law where construction of language necessarily would become a question; in other words, where the language was not clear as applied to some specific case.

Gradually, over these past three years, the Wagner Act has developed certain ambiguous phrases, some of which have been clarified by judicial opinions. Others have not yet been clarified and, after consultation with the N. L. R. B., it is perfectly possible that this winter we may try to seek legislative clarification of them, of some of this language which is not wholly clear. On that Mr. Green and I were one. We did not discuss in any shape, manner or form any specific amendments or changes in the Wagner Act. And when, in the course of time, it comes to the question of what amendments will be recommended, obviously a lot of people are going to be consulted, such as N. L. R. B., various labor groups, all the labor groups, representatives of employers, counsel, lawyers.

Now, that is really all that has happened and that is a very simple, clear statement.

Q Aside from that, would those ambiguities deal with matters of jurisdiction?

THE PRESIDENT: Did not go into that at all.

Q You said ambiguities?

THE PRESIDENT: Every Act -- there is not an Act that has ever been passed that did not have ambiguities in it.

Q No details?

THE PRESIDENT: Details were not mentioned.

Q Have you given any thought, Mr. President, to filling the Supreme Court vacancy?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. DURNO: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #479
Held in the President's Study at Hyde Park, New York,
August 26, 1938, 11.45 A.M.

MR. STORM: Good morning, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning, Frederick.

MR. BELAIR: Good morning, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning, Squire (Mr. Belair), how are you?

Well, how are you behaving? I think tomorrow afternoon, before the picnic, if you want to go up to the house first, you could be over at the cottage about 2.15, at Val Kill. I will join you there and we will go up on top of the hill and I will show you the house, and from there we will go down to Moses Smith and I will give you a dissertation on fish. Then that will give you time -- we will probably be through with Moses Smith about a quarter of four or four o'clock at the latest, and that will give you time to write your stories and come back to the cottage at six.

Q Mr. President, I have a query from Knoxville, Tennessee, from the Knoxville News Sentinel, and the editor says he is anxious to get some comment from President Roosevelt on the successful completion of the first major purchase of a private utility by TVA and the municipality. (Reading) "TVA and Knoxville completed the purchase of the private utility here yesterday" -- that was the day before yesterday -- "and asked that the President be queried about it at his next Press Conference at Hyde Park."

THE PRESIDENT: There isn't very much more to say than that I am delighted it has gone through successfully. Apparently the terms agreed to reimburse the investors in the private company for all the money they put in and a little more over, which seems fair all around. They were not reimbursed for watered stock. Now, you cannot say "reimbursed" because on watered stock they have not put anything out. That is the wrong word.

Q They were not "paid"?

THE PRESIDENT: They were not paid for watered stock.

Q Mr. President, as you probably have noticed, quite a bit of politics are being written under a Hyde Park date line. (Laughter)

Is there anything you can tell us about your conference yesterday with Mr. Farley?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except off the record.

Q How about for background purposes?

THE PRESIDENT: No, first off the record. Do not let the public get the idea, in writing stories, that when Jim Farley or anybody else comes up here that we confer continuously, seriously, during a whole afternoon and a whole evening. That is silly. One does not do that.

Actually, what happened is this: I did not see Jim Farley -- he got over here in time for lunch at the cottage and I then took him up and showed him the cottage and we got back here about half past three, along in there. At the lunch we talked to a lot of WPA regional woman directors about the problems of WPA all over the country. While eating at the table they circulated around. We got back here about half past three and Jim and I talked here and in the other room, all kinds of things, about an hour and a half, including politics but also including a great many other things. We talked about gold mining, we talked about agriculture, we talked about crops and of course we did discuss all the different political situations, but that was only, I suppose, a quarter of the entire conversation.

Then we quit talking and went out again and at 7.30 went over to dine with my sister-in-law, and then came back and went to bed.

That is the kind of thing that happens when people come up and it is an awful imposition to say that he spent the whole afternoon and evening conferring on politics, because it is not true. It is the wrong impression to give to the public. It sounds beautiful but it just is not true. (Laughter)

Well, we talked on every political situation and talked perhaps half an hour all told in the course of the day and there was, as usual, complete agreement. I don't see how you can get a story out of that. There was complete agreement. I am not going to refer to specific things, to details, because there isn't any news in it.

Q You said this is all off the record. Couldn't we say, "in complete agreement"?

THE PRESIDENT: No. You can say, "complete agreement, as usual." Only, for Heaven's sake, put the words "as usual" in, because it happens to be true.

MR. McINTYRE: Direct quotes?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, you can use that as direct quotes.

Q Mr. President, have you decided to go into Maryland to make a speech?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't any plans. I cannot tell you anything more than I told you the other day.

Q You have an invitation, have you not?

THE PRESIDENT: I have got lots of them from every state.

Q When you say, "every state," does that mean every state where there is a Primary?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and states where there aren't any. Both, you have to include both. It is awfully hard to write a story on that unless you write, "Sources close to the White House revealed" and things like that. I know all the phrases. Or, "It was believed that --" (Laughter)

Q How did you like John's (Mr. O'Brien) story the other morning?

THE PRESIDENT: It is the finest rehash of things that have one out in the last year or two that I have ever read. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, things in New York are starting off against O'Connor. Does what you said the other day about one party intervening --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) How can they vote in the Democratic Primary in this State? They cannot vote in the Democratic Primary.

Q I know they can't.

THE PRESIDENT: So what? As Charlie would say.

Q David Lawrence, head of the Workers' Alliance, announced in a story appearing this morning that, regardless of the pronouncements against collections from WPA workers, he was going ahead with his plan to collect $50,000., not so much to fight O'Connor but to sort of build up a war chest to help all their candidates.

THE PRESIDENT: You saw what Harry said the other day, that I very much hope that people on relief won't spend any money in contributing to any party. That is a pretty good statement.

Q Might we use that as a direct quote?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, have you any comment on Secretary Hull's note to Mexico requesting payment of $10,000,000. for seized lands?

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to get that from the State Department.

Q Mr. President, out in California now they are a little concerned about a new plan to give $30. a week to every unemployed person over fifty years of age. Are you familiar with that?

THE PRESIDENT: Only vaguely, George (Durno). That is a thing that I can only talk to you about for background. You remember back in -- when I talked on social security on August fifteenth, I used a phrase in here, after talking about the improvement and extension of social security, I said:

> "I am also confident that each year will bring further development in Federal and State social security legislation - and - that is as it should be. One word of warning, however. In our efforts to provide security for all of the American people, let us not allow ourselves to be misled by those who advocate short cuts to Utopia or fantastic financial schemes."

Well, I got from the Comptroller of the Currency a memorandum but it is too technical for either me to use or you to use. Apparently this -- this is all background stuff -- apparently this proposal in California is by no means a new one. It is essentially the old idea of issuing warrants to people over fifty years of age, and every time that these warrants -- which may be used to pay certain things, like state obligations, taxes, licenses, et cetera; I don't know what else they can be used for -- every time they are used you have to paste on a two-cent state stamp, which you have to buy with Federal currency, with regular currency. You have to paste it on once a week, which means that on every transaction, once a week, somebody has to put a stamp on it.

The Acting Comptroller of the Currency points out that there are about a million, three hundred thousand people in California over the age of fifty, which would mean issuing warrants each year up to nearly a billion dollars, which means that those warrants would have to be paid for during the course of the year by a transaction tax of a billion dollars. Obviously it is a transaction tax. And that would represent about a quarter of the total income of all of the people of California. In other words, it is about a 25% income tax on everybody, but principally, of course, on the poorer people of the State.

Furthermore, it leaves out two important considerations. The warrants would not be good, of course, outside of the State, in other words, for any transaction for the purchase or sale of something outside of the State of California. You could not use them to buy an automobile that was bought in Detroit.

And the other question is a legal question, a constitutional question, about the right of a state to issue currency. I am not passing on that. I am simply mentioning the fact that this is a constitutional question. States are not allowed under the Constitution to issue currency.

As everybody knows, this plan is, on the face of it, an extremely attractive one. It is not very different from the Alberta or --

Q (interposing) Alberta?

THE PRESIDENT: The Alberta plan that was put into operation a few years ago. My understanding is that the plan in Alberta is not working.

Q The Premier lost an election with that plan as an issue, I understand.

THE PRESIDENT: In other words, while one is sympathetic with the objective very much, it is a short cut to an extension of social security. It would fall within the warning which I mentioned on the fifteenth of August.

And, of course, aside from the practicability of it, the essential objection is that it is a tax which falls far more heavily on the poor than on the rich. I think that is important.

Q Mr. President, who is sponsoring that plan?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I haven't the faintest idea.

Q I think it is Olson.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it is, I don't think so. You had better check on that.

Q What have you done with Mr. Farley? Is he still around?

THE PRESIDENT: He went down early this morning, at 8.00 o'clock.

Q To New York?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q He is not going to get to Washington today?

MR. EARLY: To be perfectly frank, I think Jim suddenly discovered that it was his little girl's birthday. I don't think he wanted Bess to know that he had forgotten it.

THE PRESIDENT: Don't use it.

Q I saw Mrs. Rundall outside on a purely local question, on a school matter, and she said if you wanted to say anything about it, O.K. She did mention something of the possibility of a meeting next week.

THE PRESIDENT: Some of them wanted to come down and talk it over, I think on Monday. I am not doing anything on it except to try to act as a clearing house between all these different districts. You see, there are -- Lord knows what -- nine districts?

Q About nine or ten.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q She wanted to make it clear that so far as her interests were concerned, she was not trying to tell them what to do.

THE PRESIDENT: No. We want to get them together because there are two facts which we cannot get away from. We need additional high school facilities for a couple of hundred children and we need additional grade school facilities for another two or three hundred, and if we don't get a plan through before the first of October, we don't get any PWA grant. Obviously something has got to be done to take care of the children. I am not laying down any plan. I am just simply calling attention to those two facts. We have a very serious housing problem with the school children and if we do not do something by the first of October we are out of luck.

It means roughly that if the total building, no matter where it was done, came to around, say, $700,000., which I think is approximately the figure we talked about, it would mean if they do not do it now they would lose about $300,000. from PWA, and therefore the taxpayers of the town would have to put up the $300,000.

Q Mr. President, have you had a chance to check into the progress of the Poughkeepsie Post Office project lately?

THE PRESIDENT: Only what I read last night. They said they might have it ready to dedicate.

Q Do you expect to come to the Fair?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot. I have got to be in Washington next week.

Q When you were talking about what this amendment would provide, you said that is for background. Well, that has been eliminated.

MR. McINTYRE: Would it be all right if I let the boys use it and draw their own conclusions? I mean, it is not very clear. If they quote your explanation of it we might all be in bad.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; that is all right.

Q As I understand it, your comments on that are usable?

MR. McINTYRE: Yes, except his explanation as to what he thinks it provides.

Q Have you any other callers today, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Have I, Mac? I don't think so. Probably have some local folks coming in.

Q Have you had any reaction at all to the statement on political morality -- outside of the Tory Press, that is? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes, I have had a lot of letters which are running a thousand per cent. favorable so far.

Q What would be a good definition of a Tory newspaper?

MR. McINTYRE: Illustration or description?

THE PRESIDENT: I will tell you the easiest way and this has to be off the record. Put the owner of the Boston Herald and the editor -- the owner, these are owners I am talking about -- the owner of the Herald-Tribune, of the (Baltimore) Sun, Frank Gannett, Bertie McCormack, old man Hearst --

MR. McINTYRE: (interposing) Mr. Chandler.

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THE PRESIDENT: Chandler --

Q (interposing) Roy Haard. [Howard ?]

Q (Mr. Storm) You are not going to get my boss in there. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Clark Howell -- let us take some Democrats -- young Clark Howell, and the fellow who has this new Chattanooga paper -- a few of that kind, put them all in a room together, shake them up together, and the cocktail that comes out is the Tory Press. Now those are the owners.

Q Let us lay them end to end and see what happens.

THE PRESIDENT: What comes out is the Tory Press. It is not the editors. Hell, most of the editors have got families. They cannot lost their jobs. They have to write what the owner tells them to. You fellows do; most of you have families and can't think of it.

How did you like that definition?

Q You left Moe Annenberg out. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, we were given to understand that Mr. Farley was somewhat worried about Tammany support of Fay, that it might militate against his chances in the fall, and I wondered whether he said anything to you about that?

THE PRESIDENT: No, that is a new one.

Q Has your attention been called to Earl Browder's speech on the Coast about the Democratic Party having to embrace the Communist Party or something?

MR. McINTYRE: Mr. Browder said that you could not throw him down; to discourage his support would be throwing down Democracy itself.

THE PRESIDENT: It is on a par with Shirley Temple being a Communist.

It all goes right together. In fact, I am not sure it would not be fun for some of you to dig out the file of papers of 1911 and 1912, great fun -- this is off the record -- and see the names that Bob Wagner and I were called in those years. Communists? Of course. Hell, we were working for a 54-hour law for women and children in industry and the Herald-Tribune was turning somersaults every day, saying it was communistic for women and children to work 54 hours a week.

MR. McINTYRE: You did not brag about being a Communist?

THE PRESIDENT: We were that kind of Communists and we bragged about it. We admitted it. And, after that fire, the Herald-Tribune did the same thing. That was before John (Roosevelt) was born. They said, Oh, it was terrible for the girls to be burned up but when it came to factory legislation for inspection, they opposed it right through. It is an old story, the Poughkeepsie papers opposed it. Not the News-Press in those days. It was going then.

MR. DURNO: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Like the elephant, I have a long memory.

NOTE:

There were no Press Conferences held between September 9, 1938, at Hyde Park, and September 20, 1938. The President visited his son at Rochester, Minnesota and, upon his return to Washington, was incapacitated by a cold.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #480,
At the Site of the New Cottage, Hyde Park, New York,
August 27, 1938, 2.30 P.M.

Q What is the frontage on this (cottage)? How long is the place going to be?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know. That does not give it to you(indicating strings showing foundation lines). It gives an erroneous impression. The only thing I can give you is the number of rooms. There are two bedrooms and a bath on the south end and then one combination livingroom and diningroom in the middle and in the north end is the kitchen, pantry, hallway and one bedroom.

Q How many porches are there going to be?

THE PRESIDENT: One on the west side.

Q Are you going to finish the second story?

THE PRESIDENT: That is not for use; that is only for air.

MR. McINTYRE: I cannot understand that fireplace.

THE PRESIDENT: That is a trick. We did not want to have an ugly staircase going down into the cellar so we made the staircase going down to the cellar inside of the chimney. Right over here (indicating).

Q How big is the main room?

THE PRESIDENT: 22 by 34.

Q A fireplace on one side only?

Q What is this place here, outside of that wall (indicating)?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that will just be a grass plot.

MRS. ROOSEVELT: Franklin, which wing has the kitchen in it?

THE PRESIDENT: Right there (indicating).

MRS. ROOSEVELT: I thought so, on account of the doors.

Q How are they coming?

THE PRESIDENT: About two weeks ahead of schedule.

Q Where did you pick up the stone?

THE PRESIDENT: From the stone walls in the woods.

Q What kind ~~of a~~ finish?

THE PRESIDENT: Plain plaster.

Q Are you going to clear out some of those trees in front?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but only one at a time so we can be sure that we don't cut a tree and be sorry about it afterwards.

Q Is it going to cost $15,000. to build it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q $15,000. or $16,000.?

THE PRESIDENT: $15,000. or $16,000., including various things.

Q I notice there is a sign up here that it is going to be air-conditioned?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no, it is not.

Q There is a big sign?

THE PRESIDENT: That does not mean that it is going to be air-conditioned. That is the name of the company and what it is going to do. Don't believe what you read.

Q Is it an artesian well or a soil well?

THE PRESIDENT: We had a dispute as to what is an artesian well and apparently it is not an artesian well, because somebody found in the dictionary that an artesian well is a flowing well.

Q It is a drilled well?

THE PRESIDENT: It is a drilled well, 110 feet deep.

(Mrs. Roosevelt asked the President to take his sun glasses off because the photographers were about to take pictures.)

THE PRESIDENT: All you fellows hold up your pieces of paper and pencils and we can send the pictures to the offices. (Laughter)

Q Are you planning any landscaping?

THE PRESIDENT: Whatever there is, just the trees -- just trees. There will be no garden. But what I will do is to try to get some from out of the woods and from the Catskills, various flowering shrubs , things of that sort, so that we will get something flowering from the first of May through to September.

Q All native?

THE PRESIDENT: All native, yes.

Q When do you expect you will be ready to move in?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, next spring.

Q What kind of a heating plant are you having?

THE PRESIDENT: It is that company that is doing the air-conditioning in other places but not here.

Q Coal or oil?

THE PRESIDENT: Oil.

Q Have you decided on a name for it?

THE PRESIDENT: We will call it after the hill, this old hill along here, from two miles south to a mile north. It has always been known as Dutchess Hill.

Q Dutchess Hill?

THE PRESIDENT: But it is not just this place. Anybody else can call it Dutchess Hill.

Q There is a story it was located on Mount McIntyre. (Laughter)

Q Will Mr. Spencer admit the validity of that name?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. (Laughter)

I am glad I have not a doghouse here because you probably would have crawled into it. (Referring to photographers.) (Laughter)

Q Have you changed your mind, Mr. President, about having a telephone in?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no telephones.

Q No telephone, no radio, no electric lights?

THE PRESIDENT: No garden.

Q How will it be illuminated?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, next spring I am putting electric lights in but I don't know yet.

Q What kind of roof are you going to have?

THE PRESIDENT: Patent shingle stuff, whatever they call it, fireproof shingles.

Q Mr. President, are you going to give us a pretty good speech over at Moses Smith's today?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I will talk about fishing.

Q How about throwing in a little international stuff this afternoon?

THE PRESIDENT: Why that?

Q We need two good stories.

THE PRESIDENT: Not today. You don't need another story until tomorrow night. They do not open the news section of Sunday newspapers anyway.

Q Yes they do.

Q It is a return to the horse and buggy age. (Referring to the President's comment that there would be no electricity or telephones in the new house.)

THE PRESIDENT: I can tell you a story off the record but you will have to make it off the record. If you go out to buy telephone poles from the electric light company, they want $40. a pole. I have to have fifteen poles to get in from the road and it is $600. What I am going to do, I think, is to go down into the woods and cut fifteen hemlocks, strip them and put them into the barn for the winter so they will dry out and then, in April, creosote them and put in my own poles. Then of course the wire and the transformer will have to be put in by experts. But I can put in my own poles for about $10. a pole and that is a saving of $450. It is worthwhile.

Well, as a matter of fact, of course that is the whole basis of the R.E.A. thing. The R.E.A. is being done in large part, of course, by the farmers themselves in a cooperative way. You can get poles out of the woods with your own labor and strip them and creosote them for $9. or $10. anywhere. All you need do is dig holes in the ground. You do not need experts to do that.

Q Mr. President, they asked me to ask you a question so they could take a picture. (Referring to photographers.) (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That is a very good question.

Q That would be a pretty good story in itself, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes but I cannot give it to you because it sounds like an attack on a particular company which, as a matter of fact, in its rates has been doing a rather good job.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #481,
Executive Offices of the White House,
August 30, 1938, 4.07 P.M.

Q How is the cottage coming along?

THE PRESIDENT: Fine; I have got roofs on the two end sections.

Q Will it be through this fall?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so.

Q Without radio and electric lights too?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I forgot one other thing I might have said -- no daily papers.

Q Not even the Poughkeepsie Eagle News?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I am going to read them one week late and then I can laugh. Every paper will come in just one week or seven days late and then I can see how cockeyed they are. That is off the record. (Laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think there is any news. I just found on my desk this morning a report of the National Labor Relations Board, showing sixteen strike situations in July, affecting 3849 workers. Ten were settled, covering 3466 workers, and the other six only affected less than 400 people. The cases closed by agreement were 262, affecting 41,000 workers, and quite a number of other cases were closed, 29 cases by certification, 68 dismissed and 167 withdrawn.

I mention this because it is not news. In other words, the only news is when the man bites the dog, and we do not get publicity, as I have remarked before, for the very, very large percentage of labor conciliation cases which are being settled every day.

Q In that connection would you like to say something about the peaceful settlement of the long standing Harlan County dispute?

THE PRESIDENT: I would like to but I have not got any detailed information on it. All I can say is that if it is going to bring (a) peace and, secondly, decent treatment of the workers in Harlan County, it is good. I do not know Harlan County at firsthand, that is why I put it that way.

Q Mr. President, are you either planning or hoping to attend the Pan American Conference at Lima this year?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I answered that the last time I was down there.

Q Speaking of trips, there is a report in Minneapolis that you are coming out there to make a speech at the opening of the Community Chest drive?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Anything to that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. On the Community drive I usually, in the fall I will go on the air when the thing starts, sometime in October.

Q Do you expect to speak in the Sixteenth New York Congressional District?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no plans whatever that you do not know about.

Q Have you given any thought to Allen's successor? (Former District of Columbia Commissioner)

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Anything on the Federal Judgeships?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q What did you see Sidney Hillman about today, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, we talked over a lot of general situations.

Q The Wagner Act?

THE PRESIDENT: Just general situations.

Q Did you approve the recommendation of General Hines for a new Veterans' Hospital in Illinois?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. As I remember it, while formal official approval has not yet been given, we are all ready to go ahead with the decision on Texas but not on Illinois.

Q May I ask what is holding it up?

THE PRESIDENT: A number of organizations or communities, I do not know which it is, have asked for further hearings.

Q Will you tell us where in Texas that hospital will be?

THE PRESIDENT: I guess you had probably better wait and get it from Hines because there are a good many technicalities involved.

Q Mr. President, have you complied with the request from Congressman Dies for more cooperation from Government departments for his committee?

THE PRESIDENT: I never heard of such a thing. More cooperation from Government departments? Aren't they getting it?

Q He wrote to you asking that the Department of Justice and the Department of Labor assist him.

THE PRESIDENT: He was not asking for more cooperation; he was asking for the detail of certain specified people. That is a very different thing than asking for more cooperation.

Q Have you done anything about that request?

THE PRESIDENT: I have referred it to the Departments involved.

Q Can you tell us what you wrote to those Departments?

THE PRESIDENT: I have referred it to them for report.

Q Secretary Hull would not tell us about his talk with you early this morning although he did say that he covered certain phases of the international situation.

THE PRESIDENT: I think at a time like this it is best not to comment.

Q Is this a good time to comment on Maryland?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Next Monday -- I am going there on Monday.

Q Representative Goldsborough gave us some details as to the trip, et cetera and so on. Is there anything else you want to add or would care to add about his visit with you this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. He told where I was going to land and then coming back here that evening?

Q Steve (Mr. Early) had told us that beforehand.

Q Mr. President, do you know who is going to be in your party?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know yet. I will be able to tell you in a few days.

Q Newspaper advertisements are urging the people of the state to resist the Federal invasion. Do you regard yourself as an invader?

THE PRESIDENT: I read it and my first impression was one of amusement and my next impression was one of sadness that anybody could put out a hysterical statement of that kind. On the face of it it is funny but when you go down deep it is sad, pathetic.

Q Do you share the view of Attorney General Cummings that Senator Lonergan is an acceptable candidate in Connecticut?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard a word about it.

Q He made the announcement that the Senator is for the New Deal.

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard a word about Connecticut since the day that the White House correspondents played ball over in Pawling -- about what was it, ten days?

Q That was the day you said "How do?" to Mr. Kopplemann.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that is right, and they all saw me and heard me.

Q And they lost. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: We had a manager with us. (Laughter)

Q Fred (Storm) stole second. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Stole?

Q Tried to.

Q Are you soon going to release the report of the Philippine Joint Preparatory Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: That I do not know. You will have to talk to them about it. I have not heard a word.

They are releasing, for Friday morning papers, the report of this committee that went abroad to bring in a factual report of relations between employers and employees in England and Sweden. We are releasing the English part on Thursday for Friday morning papers. It is unanimous and exceedingly interesting. It is well worth reading through and not just trying to hit the high spots.

Q When do you think you will have your Denton speech ready, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I suppose Monday about noon.

Q And it is to be delivered by 2.00 o'clock?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q That is plenty of time; plenty of time. (Laughter)

Q In that connection, it is reported that you also may go to Baltimore later on?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes?

Q You don't plan to?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, do you know where Representative Goldsborough stands in the Senatorial contest?

THE PRESIDENT: You had better ask him.

Q I would not ask him where he stands but do you know where he stands? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so. (Laughter)

Q Down in Georgia you spoke of the necessity of doing something about the freight rates differentials. I wonder if you could tell us what you have in mind on that?

THE PRESIDENT: A good many of the agencies are working on it.

Q I wonder if you plan to recommend anything to Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: That is too far ahead.

Q Did Secretary Morgenthau have that tax study prepared for you today?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, gosh, no. You are about two months ahead of me.

Q When he started he said he hoped to have some or all by fall and I wondered if he had brought any over?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

Q Can you comment on your talk with Marvin Jones this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: We talked about agriculture.

Q In view of the committees that want help to study labor relations and in view of Green's statement, do you plan to recommend any

Wagner Labor Act amendments?

THE PRESIDENT: Read the Act first.

Q Where will that report be released?

THE PRESIDENT: Right here at the White House.

Q How soon?

MR. EARLY: Probably tomorrow afternoon.

THE PRESIDENT: For Friday morning papers.

Q Do you care to make any remarks about Mr. Byrnes in South Carolina?

THE PRESIDENT: No, (pausing) no. (Laughter) I know what I will say, whichever way it goes. That I have got very definitely in my mind so it is all right.

MR. YOUNG: Well, again I thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #482,
Executive Offices of the White House,
September 2, 1938, 10.37 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: This makes me realize that winter is coming on. I understand the Press Club is arranging its winter program.

Q I am on that committee. Have you any suggestions?

THE PRESIDENT: I have lots of suggestions; it is all right.

Q I would appreciate a memorandum. (Laughter)

Q The Senator rejoined after many years of absence.

THE PRESIDENT: I know it.

Well, you are going to have a nice long time at Hyde Park this time.

Q I bought a new set of golf clubs yesterday, so I am all set.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Will it improve your game?

Q (Mr. Storm) I think so. I hope so.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Senator, have you any questions this morning?

Q Mr. President, have you any comment to make on Italy's order for the expulsion of about 22,000 Jews who have been there since 1919?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Is there anything you can tell us about the failure of railroad labor to accept arbitration as a means of settling the wage reduction?

THE PRESIDENT: Only that I hope it can be worked out.

Q Are you at a point where you can consider a successor to George Allen yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q I have to ask you that at certain times.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there will be any news for quite a while.

Q Do you see anything alarming in the situation with respect to Mexico, respecting the President's remarks?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news on that other than what you have got.

Q Is there anything you can add to the Navy Department announcement of the creation of a new squadron?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think they announced why it is being done.

Q Is it a fact that you have decided not to go to dedicate the bridge at Port Huron? Would that indicate that you are not going into Michigan this fall?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not any definite plans. It is going to be awfully hard to get away from here before election. I will have to say this off the record: It is an unjustified, absolutely unjustified, assumption which is being made by Detroit papers that a failure to go to dedicate an international bridge up there at Port Huron is in any way connected with the Michigan campaign. It is a deliberate distortion of the fact and the Detroit papers might as well get that. I would like to go there to dedicate the bridge but it is a little difficult for me to get away.

Q In view of the political situation, wouldn't it be O. K. for us to say that it has nothing to do with the campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: It is a deliberate distortion for any Michigan paper to make any such assumption.

Q Is that on the record?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, leave that on the record. (Laughter) You asked for it and you got it.

Q I do not know whether you are talking about my paper or not. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I am talking about some assumptions.

Q May I ask one more question?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q You have been engaged in eliminating or trying to eliminate some of the Senatorial candidates --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That is not true either.

Q Well, do you plan in any way to give any help to Governor Murphy in the election out there?

THE PRESIDENT: I will probably do the same thing about him as I will do for various other liberals in the United States. I am in favor of liberals. I am not taking part in party politics in the election. If there is a good liberal running on the Republican ticket, I would not have the slightest objection to his election.

Q Have you found any yet, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, curiously enough there are some.

Q Would Clyde Reed of Kansas qualify?

THE PRESIDENT: Now you are going into names and it is much too premature.

Q What did you say, sir? Was it, "I would not have the slightest objection to his --" what, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: To his election.

Q Does that imply that you may do something to help the Governor?

THE PRESIDENT: Now you are coming down to specific cases. I am talking principle. Let's stick to principle. It doesn't make the same kind of a headline in Michigan or any other place, but American people are beginning to think more in terms of principle than personality. That is easy.

Q May we infer from the picture that you draw -- you said it is difficult to get away -- may we infer that you consider the national or the international situation delicate at this time? Can we comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Only to this extent, on the international situation I would not say it is delicate, I would say it is difficult. We all know that. It is a difficult situation and I hate to tie myself up at the present time. I do not know what my dates are; possibly any dates will be a few hours from Washington and things that can be canceled very easily in case I need to.

Q Mr. President, have you made up your list of who will accompany you Saturday into Maryland, or Sunday?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, who have we got? Can we tell them? The President of the United States, Jim Farley, Dave Lewis, Governor Nice, that first day.

Q Congressman Goldsborough?

THE PRESIDENT: Congressman Goldsborough and Dr. McIntire.

Q Is Dr. Byrd going?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Will Mr. Farley make the whole trip?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Will the Governor make the whole trip?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I think he is leaving at Morgantown and then rejoining us on Monday at Matapeake. I don't know how to spell it. It is all right otherwise.

Q In view of the fact that there has been a division of titles, is Mr. Farley making the trip as Postmaster General or as head of the Democratic Party?

THE PRESIDENT: In both capacities.

Q May we quote you directly about that sentence on the election of Republican liberals?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

Q Would you care to comment on the stories this morning to the effect that the bridge at Morgantown has been sponsored for years by people now active as Lewis' campaign managers, et cetera?

THE PRESIDENT: I never heard of it. No, the bridge at Morgantown was just brought to my attention, I think, a year before the junior Senator from Maryland was elected to the Senate. Now, that is quite a long while ago. He came in here and he talked to me about the great desirability of a bridge across the Potomac for the people of Maryland to get into Tidewater Virginia without having to come all the way up here to Washington. They only had ferries which, of course, did not always operate through the winter. That is the first I heard of it. From that time I have been very much interested in some method of getting across the Potomac River throughout the year further down. You see, it is approximately 110 miles from here down to the mouth of the Potomac and no way of getting across except by ferry.

MR. EARLY: If you are going to quote that sentence, I think you had better clarify it and repeat.

Q Would it be possible to extend that quote to include deliberate distortion and also what you said about liberals?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, use both. And add to that, still in the quotes, "The good of the country rises above party."

(The stenographer then read the following questions and answers:

"Q In view of the political situation, wouldn't it be O. K. for us to say that it has nothing to do with the campaign?

"THE PRESIDENT: It is a deliberate distortion for any Michigan paper to make any such assumption.

....

"THE PRESIDENT: .... I am not taking part in party politics in the election. If there is a good liberal running on the Republican ticket, I would not have the slightest objection to his election.")

Q Would it be encroaching too much to ask if your direct quotation on the election of liberal Republicans refers to California?

THE PRESIDENT: I am talking nationally. As a matter of fact, I do not mind talking to you for background on California. There is no question about it. This is not for direct quotation, it is background. There is no question, of course, that both Downey and Olson are, in their general points of view, liberals. There is absolutely no question about that. There is also no question that I have felt -- because I told you all before -- that the Thirty-Dollars-every-Thursday plan is, in my judgment, unsound from the financial point of view. It is, however, a State plan.

If a plan of that kind is adopted by the voters and the legislatures of a state, provided it does not violate the Federal Constitution in regard to the issuance of currency, under our system of Government the state has a right to try out the plan. I do not like the plan. The Senate of the United States has nothing to do with the plan, provided it is constitutional. But, outside of that plan, which I do not like personally, both Downey and Olson are undoubtedly liberals.

Q Would not it be possible for the Senate and Congress to adopt this plan on a national basis? Isn't it just as applicable nationally as it is for the state?

THE PRESIDENT: Just on the doctrine of chances, no. As Lord Bryce said to me a great many years ago, about 1904 or 1905, one of the advantages of the American system of government, which makes it better than the European system, is that when somebody comes along with a brand new plan which a great many people think is crackpot, or won't work financially, or for some other reason, the state, either one state or two states or three states have a right to try it out and, if the thing works, it is apt to be adopted on a national scale.

I suppose one of the easiest illustrations is direct primaries. Direct primaries started in one or two states and worked.

They liked it. It spread to other states so that today direct primaries are on a national basis with very few exceptions. It is one of the excellent results of our system of government.

Q Financially unsound -- is there any suggestion, do you mean to suggest that some similar plan or some plan to extend pensions would be favored?

THE PRESIDENT: You saw the memo at Hyde Park. I think that covered it.

Q What would you say about using such a plan in the Senatorial Primary? Do you agree with Senator McAdoo's saying that it is a delusion?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know.

Q If a Democrat conservative were nominated and running against a Republican liberal, would you favor the Republican liberal?

THE PRESIDENT: It depends on what is inside his heart. The question is, "When he gets to the Senate, what is in his heart?" If he is a real liberal, he will vote that way.

Q In view of all this, do you think you should consider the use of the word, "purge"?

THE PRESIDENT: I would call it one of those headline words, when you have to have a short word to illustrate an idea, and, to go further, I would say it is an extremely immature word, either for headlines or leads.

You are getting Steve (Mr. Early) worried.

Q A point of order: You labeled your comment on California, on Downey and Olson, as background?

THE PRESIDENT: You can use it in the regular way but not for quotes.

Q Following your instructions, I read that British labor thing. The principal factor seems to be that collective bargaining is accepted and therefore they have peace. Can you give us some idea of what in that report might be applicable to proposed legislation in view of the fact that Britain's success is due largely to a state of mind?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except that I believe we will gradually work toward that state of mind over here. I think it is a very important factor. In working out any law or working out any system, if both sides to any controversy are in a state of mind where they want to work it out in the spirit of the law or the system, you generally get somewhere but, if you call the other fellow names or emphasize publicly the violence of the dispute, you do not get anywhere.

And, of course, people can be helpful. The Press can be helpful in not overstressing disputes. The people engaged in the disputes can be helpful if they do not use bad names, do not make overstatements.

Of course this has been going on in England for a long, long time and I hope that in this country we are going gradually, over a period of years, to get in the same frame of mind that they are in over there, but it needs cooperation.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us about your talk yesterday morning with Mr. Phillip Murray of the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: It was along that general line I have been talking about, the same idea, trying to settle things in a friendly way. Nothing specific, only general.

Q Nothing was brought out about the wage cuts in the steel industry?

THE PRESIDENT: Only in relation to what I said, trying to work it out in a friendly way.

Q What do you think of the English system of settling jurisdictionally every jurisdictional dispute?

THE PRESIDENT: It seems to work.

Q Do you think there is any hope?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so. Again it is a question of frame of mind.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #483,
At the Hyde Park Station of the
New York Central Railroad, N. Y.,
(The President was seated in his motor car),
September 6, 1938, 8.45 A.M.

(Only a few of the Press were present.)

THE PRESIDENT: You know what the cameramen said about George (Durno)? You know that famous story? They got George terribly excited because Mrs. Roosevelt happened to remark -- this is the cameramen's story -- "Where is George Durno?" And one of the cameramen is reported to have said, "Drunk." They told him that she was telling it for about two days, and he believed it for about two days.

MR. McINTYRE: That is the reason George is here now.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news. You have got it all. I cannot think of a thing.

Q How long do you plan to stay?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope to stay until a week from Sunday.

Q Will you be back here after the Chattanooga trip?

THE PRESIDENT: I will go first to Washington and stay a day and then Chattanooga and then back to Washington for about ten days.

Q Any callers of importance today?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think anything. I will see the house. It has a few more stones added to it.

Q You are going to make a speech up here on the seventeenth?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, just the regular Constitution thing.

Q How do you feel about Maryland after the reception yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it was fine. I never campaigned on the

Eastern Shore before. That is off the record. Did you ever campaign in Maine? That is also off the record.

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Or even the back part of Dutchess County? (Laughter)

Q Is there any likelihood of your going to this conference?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not any plans. It is the same thing, the same story. You see, the real fact is that I have not a plan, except the Chattanooga thing, more than six hours distance from Washington at any time.

Q What do you hear on the international situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing more than you people have got.

Q It looks pretty bad?

THE PRESIDENT: You cannot tell.

Q Anything about the French mobilization?

THE PRESIDENT: The trouble is -- this is off the record -- the trouble is there are so many stories that come through that are just rumors that you cannot tell. For instance, all the newspapers the other day had a dispatch -- this is all off the record -- that Henlein had left Hitler and gone back to deliver an ultimatum to Czechoslovakia. Even London and Paris said that. Berlin said that he was still in Berchtesgaden, which he was. He had not left at all.

You see, you cannot get news. The fellows covering that situation -- there is no way in which they can get the dope, the plain facts. The same thing happens to us. While our State Department dispatches are not as wild as the newspaper stories, they are darned near, and that is saying a lot.

Q You have not --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) They have not any Hyde Park over there and they have not any Press Conferences.

It is a bad situation because half the stories are just nothing but talk.

Q You have not made any plans?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think there is a blessed thing. I hope it will be quiet today.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #484,
At the Hyde Park home of the President,
(In the Study),
September 9, 1938, 5.30 P.M.

Q How do you do, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, how is everybody? How is your golf?

Q (Mr. Storm) I took eight bucks from Mac (Mr. McIntyre) yesterday.

THE PRESIDENT: Were you his partner?

Q (Mr. Belair) I was, Mr. President.

Q That was the grandest flag of all; grand design; pony express flag.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I thought you would like to have that. George needed something to wave.

Q Absolutely.

THE PRESIDENT: So I told Grace (Miss Tully) to take it down to you. You really have something to wave.

Q (Mr. Durno) I have been waving.

THE PRESIDENT: You cannot just go around through life, just waving your arm. You get tired. You have to have something in your hand.

Q I put it at half-mast at the Nelson House. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Don't they need something at half-mast all the time in the Nelson House?

Q They need crepe the year around.

THE PRESIDENT: Who is here from Poughkeepsie?

Q I am.

THE PRESIDENT: Right. What is the latest about the row I read about, about the seventeenth and the local committee's handling of it?

Q I have not heard of any row.

THE PRESIDENT: The Star had a long story on it.

Q That was very long ago.

THE PRESIDENT: That was the day before yesterday. The Eagle News would not carry it but the Star had a big story.

Q Row?

THE PRESIDENT: About how they had not done anything.

Q That is just the Star's editorial policy. It was partly the State's (State of New York) fault. They did not give them any assurances just how far to go ahead.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought they had $5,000?

Q It was not in black and white until two weeks ago. And now Steingut comes in and says, "Shoot the works." If they had had that two weeks ago, they would be all right.

THE PRESIDENT: Somebody was asleep at the switch, I guess.

Q We need a couple of Democratic Senators from Dutchess County and Assemblymen.

Q Mr. President, as the result of recent speeches by Joe Kennedy and Ambassador Bullitt and also yourself and Secretary Hull, the impression, according to reports, is growing abroad that the United States is allied morally with the democracies of Europe in a sort of "Stop Hitler" movement, not necessarily in commitments for war or anything of that sort, but morally. Is there anything you can tell us about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the only thing I can say is this -- two things: first, is that the Associated Press dispatch about what Ambassador Bullitt said has been categorically and definitely denied by the Ambassador and by the American Embassy in Paris. Number two is that your question is very well put. You speak of "impressions" -- in other words, interpretations by columnists and editorial writers in the United States. If they would read the English language about what the Secretary of State has said and what I have said, they would find that their interpretations are about 100% wrong. I am not mentioning any names -- I do not have to. In other words, this is -- off the record, this is just a political attempt to misinterpret the fact. That goes for almost every interpretation that I have read, so there. And the worst offenders -- well, I won't say the worst offenders --

Q (interposing) Mr. President, can you state for us the policy of the United States toward the preservation of --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Read what the Secretary of State has said and what I have said. That is the policy. And do not put words into people's mouths that they have not said. Make that very, very clear. The Press of this country is behaving rather badly on this whole foreign policy situation. It is the political angle of the Press and they are giving a false impression. How do you like that?

Q The Secretary of State has complained that whenever he tried to run a bluff, the Press had exposed his hand.

THE PRESIDENT: He had complained that?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: No! When did he ever say that?

Q (Mr. O'Brien) He said that in front of me. Also that he would not object to having some statement of American foreign policy construed a bit strongly for whatever moral effect it might have.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the moral effect end of it has been made perfectly clear right out in open English. I do not think there is anything particularly hidden about it.

MR. McINTYRE: Would you want to qualify that about the "Press of this country"?

THE PRESIDENT: I mean that portion of the American Press which is using the political angle. I should not have said the American Press.

Q Mr. President, I have been asked about a letter that you are supposed to have written to Arkansas, endorsing the removal of the poll tax down there.

MR. McINTYRE: That is the letter you wrote to young Broderick.

THE PRESIDENT: That was a personal letter I wrote to, what is his name?

MR. McINTYRE: Lynn Broderick, was it not?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Anything to say, Mr. President, about your conference with Governor Benson?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing more than you know. We talked about the agricultural situation.

Q How about your conference with the Attorney General?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose we talked about fifty different things; nothing in particular.

Q Mr. President, as a result of what the Attorney General said, -- again a matter of interpretation and speculation is involved -- (laughter) it would appear that the effort to obtain the election of liberals in primaries and the defeat of reactionaries would be confined to those states already named and not extended in Connecticut. Was that justified?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I do not think so. In other words, I am talking principle.

Q (by another member of the Press) You wait until I get you home.

THE PRESIDENT: You would bring it out. (Laughter)

Another thing, you are asking about the poll tax. Again, this does not have any particular reference to any one particular state and I think you could put it this way: that there are a good many states which still have it and, historically, it seems to be a remnant of the period, of the time of the Revolution, when the ownership of property was necessary before you could take part in an election. Almost everywhere in the country we have been getting away from that. Every decade has seen some state or series of states getting away from it.

You take, for example, the State of Virginia, which is one of the states which has not got away from it. They have a very, very high poll tax. The result is, roughly, that about one-third of the qualified white voters in Virginia can vote and there are about two-thirds who are disenfranchised by the poll tax.

Of course, at the time of the Revolution and for a good many years afterwards, there were states that required the ownership of real estate before you could vote and it is in general line with that that we have this effort to retain the poll tax in part. I am not bringing in the question of negroes voting, that is an entirely different question. I am talking about people who now vote. It is a little bit in line with this organization of "ladies" -- put "ladies" in quotes -- in New Jersey who have organized a movement to keep anybody who unfortunately happens to be on the relief rolls, through no fault of their own, from voting because they are paupers.

Q The Women's Rebellion?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I think it is incorporated. I think it is called Women's Rebellion, Inc. Of course the logical conclusion to that would be for another women's revolution or men's revolution to start with the franchise to be confined to people with A. B. degrees or more.

I remember President Eliot, twenty or twenty-five years ago, at the time the question of women's suffrage was coming up, somebody said to him, "President Eliot, are you in favor of women's suffrage?" He said, "No." They said, "Why? Do you think it would increase the ignorant vote in the country?" He said, "Why, no, I am very much in favor of an ignorant vote in the country. It is because I do not think women know enough about Government affairs to be given a franchise." President Eliot was then told that quite a number of college graduates have indicated that they favored giving it to holders of college degrees and, in response to that, he said, "When that happens in this country, we will have a republic for three years and no more."

Q Was it Eliot who made that observation?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. McINTYRE: I was wrong; it was not the Broderick letter that referred to the poll tax.

Q Senator Bilbo/today that he had presented a plan for increasing old age pensions to sixty dollars a month. Have you anything to say?

said

THE PRESIDENT: I asked him one question: "Where would you get the money?"

Q He conceded that.

THE PRESIDENT: And that is as far as we got.

Q He also replied, however, or said, -- this is interpretative -- he said that provided a sound means were found to obtain the money, he indicated you would not object to the idea.

THE PRESIDENT: If a sound means could be found, so that you boys, all of you, could get a guaranteed minimum of $25,000. a year, I would be for it. (Laughter)

Q I think sound means could be found in that case, Mr. President. (Laughter)

Q Was that the principal purpose of his visit, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No, he wanted to talk to me about a number of other things, a project and a pardon case and one or two others.

Q What do you hear from Maryland?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard a peep -- not a peep.

Q What have you heard from Rochester about Jim (James Roosevelt)?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard this afternoon. Apparently he is getting along all right. He is on this pre-operation diet.

Q How long do you expect to stay out there?

THE PRESIDENT: A couple of days.

MR. McINTYRE: I talked to Chip (Mr. L. W. Robert) out there and he said that he had just seen Jim and he is in very high spirits.

THE PRESIDENT: Why did Chip go out?

MR. McINTYRE: For an examination.

Q Bourbon has preserved him. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: If you stick to Bourbon, you are all right.

Q Have you any further comment to make on the centralization situation of the town of Hyde Park?

THE PRESIDENT: When are they voting?

Q I believe it is September sixteenth.

THE PRESIDENT: And all the districts except Staatsburg?

Q I have not had a chance to acquaint myself with the details but I understand that Staatsburg is in it -- all of the originally contemplated districts.

THE PRESIDENT: It is so terribly difficult to know what is what, there. They had a violent argument as to whether Staatsburg would vote or not or was entitled to vote or not. Where is it going to be held?

Q I believe in Hyde Park Village.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

Q Will you come back here (from Rochester, Minnesota) or go directly to Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: I have to be here for the party on Saturday.

NOTE:

There were no Press Conferences held between September 9, 1938, at Hyde Park, and September 20, 1938. The President visited his son at Rochester, Minnesota and, upon his return to Washington, was incapacitated by a cold.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #485,
Executive Offices of the White House,
September 20, 1938, 4.05 P.M.

Q How is the cold?

THE PRESIDENT: Bad.

Q Everybody seems to have one around here.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Dan Callaghan had one yesterday.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Mrs. Scheider has got it and everybody else in general.

Q Why don't you take some of Mr. McIntyre's remedy? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, he knows what to do for a cold. (Laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: The most important personal news is that I have a bad cold in my nose. That is more important than all the rest of the news to me.

Bill Myers is going back to Cornell, as you know. His letter of resignation and my reply Steve will have ready for you afterwards, and also a rather interesting summary of the work of the F. C. A. for the last five years, which he gave me on leaving. It shows the progress that has been made. If you will remember, in 1933 there were about fifty-seven different varieties of agricultural credit. They have all been put under one head and put on a proper business basis since then. The resume' tells the story. Steve will have it for you.

Q How are you going to keep men like Myers in the Government service?

THE PRESIDENT: It is pretty hard -- a mighty difficult thing.

Q Who will succeed him?

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Hill, who is Deputy Governor at the present time.

Then, I just had a very interesting hour and a half conference with Mr. Gray, of the Union Pacific, Mr. Clement~~s~~, of the Pennsylvania, and Mr. Norris, of the Southern, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Robertson and Mr. [Jewall] Jell, of the Brotherhood -- a long discussion of the railroad problem -- but not the wage problem. I suppose it was generally assumed that it was the wage problem but it was not.

The only relationship of the wage problem to what we talked about was what I told them in the beginning. I suggested that the question of railroad wages is only one element in the broader problem of getting a sound system of railroads in the United States. That is the larger aspect, a sound system of transportation, coordinated transportation. I told them that last spring I had sent all the available information to the Congress for Congress to act on, and Congress didn't act on it and I think and I hope that Congress will act on it the coming session; that I felt very strongly that they could be of help if they would act as an informal committee of six to discuss the general problem of transportation, particularly if they could bring in a sufficiently broad plan to make it worth while for the country and the Congress to study and, if they like it, to act on it.

In other words, they know more about the running of railroads than anybody else in the country, their management and employees, and I am going to see if they cannot, in the course of the next month or so, talk things over and get any information they need from the Government or their own sources and try to bring in some kind of recommendations for legislation, because I felt that we were getting nowhere and I think we ought to get somewhere, and this may help with that picture.

Q Did they accept the commission?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, they are at work now in the Cabinet Room.

Q Are they going to make that report to you in the very near future?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes -- at their convenience, I suppose, a month or six weeks.

Q Mr. President, where does that leave the wage controversy between the two parties?

THE PRESIDENT: It doesn't. It has nothing to do with it. I am sorry if you got out on the limb but I suppose it was the obvious thing to do.

Q That means that the wage controversy will go through the regular stages?

THE PRESIDENT: Just being taken up in the regular way.

Q Will this Cabinet Room session result in a statement from those gentlemen?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. I told them they would not say anything to you. I told them I would do all the talking. (Laughter) That is much better.

Q Mr. President, when do you expect the fact finding board to be created?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably in just about a week.

Q Mr. President, have you offered to Senator McAdoo the job of Comptroller General?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Or any other job?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Anything to give us on the appointment of a Comptroller of Currency?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a thing.

Q Have you offered Jefty (Mr. J. F. T. O'Connor) anything?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I haven't offered anybody any job.

Q Is the Comptroller General appointment in sight?

THE PRESIDENT: No, nothing in sight.

Q What do you hear from Europe?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Fred (Storm), on Europe there is no news. After all, you are here primarily for news. Now I know that a great many of you have been told to ask certain questions, interpretive questions and questions of opinion, questions of prognostication, and I think that in the present situation it is much better that you go along with me and not ask any questions of that kind. So far as news goes, there isn't any.

Q Mr. President, have any Democratic candidates or officials of Ohio asked you to intervene against the present cutting off of social security funds for Ohio?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard a word about it.

Q There is a vacancy soon on the Maritime Commission. Anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: On the Maritime Commission? Didn't even know it. I will have to look into it.

Q When you appointed them you said you were going to look for somebody from the West Coast. Have you anybody in mind for consideration?

THE PRESIDENT: Not at all. I did not know the time was up.

Q How about the vacancy on the Supreme Court? Have you thought that one over?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q What can you tell us about the results on Maryland and Georgia?

THE PRESIDENT: What I read in the papers, which checked with what I prognosticated. (Laughter) I was off one thousand.

Q How about the support of Tydings in the election?

THE PRESIDENT: You ought to know that. I don't take part in an election between different parties. (Laughter)

Q I do know that, but I also know at your last Press Conference or one of your Press Conferences you said you would not object to the election of a liberal Republican.

THE PRESIDENT: I was talking principle.

Q Were there any principles involved in Maryland?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes, a great many.

Q Governor Winship from Puerto Rico and Governor Poindexter from Hawaii are both in the city. Have you any plans --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I think I am to see them tomorrow or the next day.

Q Will you give us that little slip of paper you put into your desk on O'Connor today?

THE PRESIDENT: No, but I will show it to some other people before 10.00 o'clock tonight when the polls close.

Q How about those two bridges you were talking about in Maryland the other day?

THE PRESIDENT: What two bridges? Oh -- (laughter - prolonged)

Well, I will tell you. That was what they call "a political newspaper story." Purely, one hundred per cent. Do you want the real story on the bridges?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course truth never catches up with the other thing. We will call it "the other thing," therefore it really is rather a waste of time for me to tell you the story, you see, but the actual fact was this:

You know, I told you before, I have been interested in getting a through line for a long time between Baltimore and Richmond. George Radcliffe suggested it away back and I looked it over and then there came up this spring an application for three bridges for this through line. One was at Havre de Grace, the other was the Patapsco, and the third was the Potomac. The total amount -- I have forgotten -- was $15,000,000. and it would have taken the State so far over its quota that it could not be approved. So I went down there with the Governor and talked to him about cutting down the total to an amount that was within the quota of the State of Maryland and he entirely approved and said it was an excellent plan to cut out the Patapsco bridge, thereby reducing the allotment for Maryland to, as I remember it, about $5,000,000. or $6,000,000, which would have covered the Havre de Grace bridge, which is in an unsafe condition, and the Potomac bridge. Well, that is two links out of the ultimate three so, in order to get something done in a hurry before this quota -- it has to be done, you know, by the first of October -- before the final quota of this money is given out, he agreed that he would find out from the bankers whether they would finance the two bridges for the State of Maryland's share, instead of the three of them.

We therefore took up the engineering plan and put it on the preferred docket, waiting for the agreement on the part of the bankers, which Governor Nice expected to get in order that we could meet the dead line of the first of October.

The bankers, I understand, have turned down the proposition of the loan on the two bridges, therefore if Maryland is unable to pay their 55% of the money by borrowing the money from the bankers, certainly the United States Government cannot put up their 45%.

Therefore, the extra amount that is still due Maryland on its quota will be distributed among a great many other projects.

There is a completely false political newspaper story, which I have now pricked the bubble of. Now that is the story.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

Q Mr. President, is it your impression that industrial home work on goods that go into interstate commerce is covered by the Wages and Hours Act, such as needlework done in the home, say in Puerto Rico, for sale here?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. You had better ask Andrews. Frankly, I don't know.

Q He does not know. Governor Winship asked him for a ruling.

Q Has any satisfactory solution been reached on the Battery Tunnel?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard anything about it for a week. The last report was that they were going to try to get a single, complete project for the amount of money which was in our minds.

The total project outlined to us was away over what we could allot to the City of New York. I think they are very nearly in line for it but I have not heard.

Q On this railroad problem, you still entertain the same ideas that were employed in your message and the Eastman commission report last spring?

THE PRESIDENT: In my message.

Q I know, but you also recommended --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Consideration of the Eastman report. I did not make it my report, however.

Q Mr. President, some weeks ago you said that the report of the Joint Committee on the Philippines, I believe, was about to be printed. Can you tell us when that may be published?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I will have to ask Frank Sayre, but not for several weeks, I think.

Q When are you going back to Hyde Park?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, it depends, of course, on things abroad.

Q Steve Early is very anxious to get in a golf game with me up there, that is the reason I asked.

THE PRESIDENT: I should say, offhand, on the twenty-eighth or twenty-ninth if things are quieter on the other side.

Q Did your discussion of the Neutrality Act get anywhere the other day?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not discussed the Neutrality Act.

Q With McReynolds?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. McReynolds came out the other day and gave the impression --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Gave the "impression." In other words, he told you what he said about the Neutrality Act and did not say he discussed it. You know that happens very often. Just because somebody comes out of the office and gives you his personal opinion, don't, please, get the impression that it was talked over with the President. We did not discuss the Neutrality Act. He had a perfect right to give you his views on the Act when he went out.

Q Did you discuss the Johnson Act?

THE PRESIDENT: No, we did not. We discussed the Chattanooga celebration for a very long time.

Q Did you discuss the possibility of an extra session of Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: We did not. He gave you his personal impression.

Q I would like to come down from these high and mighty subjects. Things that you have to buy are very expensive, for example, two cents apiece for carrots when, down in the immediate vicinity, farmers say it doesn't pay them to pick them.

THE PRESIDENT: That is perfectly true.

Q Why is that?

THE PRESIDENT: When I was in the State Legislature in New York I followed a shipment of celery from the Norfolk market and the celery, per crate, was sold by the Norfolk farmers down there for about, as I remember it, 18¢ a crate, which barely paid for the crate let alone making any profit on the labor, and that same celery was being sold, after it had gone to New York by water and had passed through the hands of -- I followed it carefully -- six different commission merchants, and when you bought that celery in the Bronx or Queens or Brooklyn or Manhattan it cost you at the rate of $2.20 a crate. It is part of our civilization. Is it necessary? No wonder you ask the question, Is it necessary?

Q These were adjacent farmers, within trucking distance?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and you do your own marketing.

Q I know what things cost.

Q Do you expect to release the study which the Federal Trade Commission turned over to you about three weeks ago on commodity prices?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't see there is any reason why it should not be released. I have not got it. It may have been sent over here.

Q Wasn't it turned over to you last April?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, ask Rudolph. That is a report that I have not read.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #485-A(Held by Mr. Early),
In Mr. Early's Office, Executive Offices
of the White House,
September 23, 1938, 10.40 A.M.

(The President was confined to the White House by a cold. Mr. Early, at the President's request, held the Press Conference.)

Q (Miss Fleeson) Do you mean to say that I got up early to come over and talk to Steve Early? (Laughter)

MR. EARLY: You got a false alarm, Doris.

Q You could have had the conference in the lobby.

MR. EARLY: Yes.

Q We are getting gypped.

MR. EARLY: I don't think the room will hold them all.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

MR. EARLY: Gentlemen, I am sorry you all came out for the fire this morning and probably find a false alarm, but Dr. McIntire thinks that the President is making such progress with his cold in his nose that he should not attempt this morning to leave the White House and come over here, or risk exposure, and if he can keep him over there he will quickly be altogether in O.K. condition. It is just a precautionary measure. It was about ten minutes ago that I learned of the doctor's decision and offered myself as a pinch hitter. That is the best I could do under the circumstances.

First, I should like to call your attention to the statement which we are putting out. It is a parallel report made by the same group that gave the President, through the Secretary of Labor, a week ago, a report on conditions, employer-employee conditions, existing in Great Britain. This is the parallel report on Sweden and it is for release in the Sunday morning papers, together with a preliminary statement by the President. Copies of that are available.

The only other piece of news I have for you is that Mr. J. F. T. O'Connor has advised the President that he does not desire reappointment as Comptroller of the Currency and he will return to practice law in California. And, along with his practice of law, will work for the election of the Democratic ticket in the State. The President, therefore, is appointing Mr. Preston Delano, of Fairhaven, Massachusetts, who is very distantly related, who is now Governor of the Federal Home Loan Bank System, to be Comptroller of the Currency.

Q How distant is the relationship?

MR. EARLY: It is so distant that I asked Mr. Delano and he said he did not know.

Q He is Governor of what did you say?

MR. EARLY: He is now Governor of the Federal Home Loan Bank System.

Q The national System?

MR. EARLY: Yes.

Q Member of the Board?

MR. EARLY: I have it from the Treasury Department that he is now the Governor of it.

Q Stephen, do you know his relationship to Colonel Frederic A. Delano?

MR. EARLY: I don't know, Fred. He has been in the Government service for five years.

Q He is the one the President visited at Fairhaven?

MR. EARLY: Yes. He is formerly general manager of the Home Owners' Loan Corporation.

Q Any other job that O'Connor did not want, Mr. Early?

MR. EARLY: Ask him.

Q Was he offered reappointment?

MR. EARLY: It was held open for him and he told the President he preferred to return to California and go into private practice.

Q He prefers $30 every Thursday. (Laughter)

Q Atlanta had a report that Lawrence Camp is going to be appointed to the Supreme Court?

MR. EARLY: You ask me that question and I will ask you to wait until you see him (meaning the President) on Tuesday. The appointments of the day are Louis Brownlow and Mr. Merriam.

Q What time, Steve?

MR. EARLY: At 11.30 at the House.

Q About the new Reorganization Bill?

MR. EARLY: For a very general discussion of reorganization.

Q What are Merriam's initials?

MR. EARLY: I think it is Charles E. Merriam and the other is Louis Brownlow. That will be a very general discussion of reorganization.

Q I forgot the time.

MR. EARLY: 11.30 at the House. That appointment was asked for by Mr. Brownlow on the third of September and it is one that has been held open for him for some time.

Q Any comment to make, Steve, on the defeat of Mr. O'Connor in the

Democratic Primary in New York?

MR. EARLY: None other than has been made. I told you what the President's estimate was and that he did regard it as a pleasant surprise.

Q When is the President going back to Hyde Park?

MR. EARLY: I don't know, Doris (Fleeson), because it depends, I think, -- well, not altogether on the cold but also on the international situation. He will stand by here until he gets both clearance, I should say, from the Secretary of State and Dr. McIntire, which I expect will be around Thursday of next week.

Q Thursday of next week?

MR. EARLY: Both of them.

Q Will he be here during the Democratic State Convention? (Meaning the New York State Convention)

MR. EARLY: I don't know.

Q The Convention will be next Thursday.

MR. EARLY: I don't think he will be there (meaning Hyde Park) then if the Convention meets on Thursday.

Q It is Thursday and Friday.

MR. EARLY: I don't expect that he proposes to leave here before Thursday evening.

Q Clearance by Thursday from Hull?

MR. EARLY: If Hull tells him that things are all right, he will move back to Hyde Park and not stay here in Washington.

Q You said he expected it by Thursday?

MR. EARLY: I think so.

Q Is the President arranging to speak in the Pennsylvania campaign?

MR. EARLY: Not to my knowledge, no.

Q You spoke of the President getting away if things quiet down abroad. Will you tell us what information you have from over there?

MR. EARLY: His disposition is not to comment at all at the present time on the international situation.

Q I am asking whether you have any news?

MR. EARLY: No.

Q Any reason why you think he can get away from here by Thursday?

MR. EARLY: Principally because he wants to get away by Thursday.

Q Who is going to take Delano's place?

MR. EARLY: I don't know. I am sure that has not been considered.

Q When is he going over to the Treasury Department?

MR. EARLY: I don't know when -- just as soon as the appointment is made, which may be today or tomorrow, I should say.

Q Brownlow and Merriam the only appointments today?

MR. EARLY: No. Bell is coming in at 12.45 and Mr. Bernard Baruch will lunch at 1.00 o'clock. Over at the House at 2.00 o'clock this afternoon the Cabinet will meet.

Q As far as you know, are you establishing a record today in pinch-hitting for the President at a Press Conference?

MR. EARLY: I would not know, Fred (Mr. Wile).

Q Has it happened before in this Administration?

MR. EARLY: No, and it would not have happened this morning if the doctor hadn't made his decision so late. The President intended to hold his Press Conference.

Q (Mr. Earl Godwin) Don't you remember that Joe Tumulty had Press Conferences -- or didn't he?

MR. EARLY: I don't remember that.

Q (Mr. Wile) We are speaking of the present century, Earl. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Godwin) Well, you were there.

Q (Mr. Wile) I am afraid I wasn't.

Q (Mr. Godwin) That's right, you were abroad.

Q Wasn't it done once in the first term of Cleveland?

Q (Mr. Godwin) It was. It was done in the first term of Cleveland and it was done with Lincoln. You can't kid me, I was there.

MISS FLEESON: Thank you, Mr. President. You did all right. (Laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #486,
Executive Offices of the White House,
September 27, 1938, 4.10 P.M.

Q How is the cold, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: A great deal better. I have still got a little snuffles in the nose. It did look like a raw carrot but it does not any more. (Laughter) It felt like a two-cent carrot.

Q You know, the boys said that they would not have minded if it had been the price of liquor,but they do not like carrots now and they don't care what they cost. (Laughter)

Q Big crowd today.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: You know about the Railway Labor Board that has been appointed. I don't think there is any other news.

Q Do you expect to get away to Hyde Park pretty soon?

THE PRESIDENT: I have absolutely no idea. I am on an hour-to-hour basis. Absolutely no plans.

Q There has been a suggestion from Paris again that perhaps your recent note to President Benes and Chancellor Hitler might be followed by a note of some sort to France and England.

THE PRESIDENT: I have had nothing from Paris on that.

Q Senator Logan suggests the revision of the Neutrality Act?

THE PRESIDENT: No news on it.

Q Will you comment on any of the replies that you have received from your message with respect to peace?

THE PRESIDENT: No. They speak for themselves.

Q Did you tell your California visitors what you think of the

Thirty-dollars-a-week-every-Thursday plan?

THE PRESIDENT: It was not discussed.

Q Will you tell us what you did discuss?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. Downey (Sheridan Downey) said he came here by your invitation. That would suggest that you had something in mind particularly?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't think he put it quite that way.

Q He said in a mimeographed statement that he came here at your invitation.

THE PRESIDENT: It was intimated to me that they both would be glad to come on here and I said I would be very glad to see them. So they came.

Q Your invitation at his intimation? (Laughter)

Q Have you anything to say about Representative Lewis' visit today?

THE PRESIDENT: No, talked about various things.

Q Bridges -- the Morgantown Bridge?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Any news in the visit of Louis Brownlow and Charles Merriam the other day?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, nothing in particular. We talked about the need of some form of improving the business methods of the Executive Branch of the Government -- in other words, reorganization. And we are all agreed that there was the same need for adequate reorganization that has existed for the last forty years.

Q Mr. President, in view of the conditions abroad, have you considered at all the idea of offering mediation?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no news on that.

Q Did you and the members of the Cabinet hear the broadcast of Chamberlain this afternoon?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we did.

Q Could you comment on that at all?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Has Mr. Hopkins reported to you on the New England situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Very briefly at Cabinet meeting -- three or four minutes.

Q Do you expect to discuss that situation with him again?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so, yes. The general work of rehabilitation, as a general thing, is going extremely well in practically all localities. There is cooperation, not only with all the local agencies, the State agencies, but the Federal agencies are working in with them. On the whole, the situation, in view of what amounted to a very serious disaster, is being taken care of as well as possible, with all forms of government cooperating to effect rehabilitation and to repair the damages.

Q Will there be any special machinery necessary? There was some talk yesterday.

THE PRESIDENT: I think not. We have two machines: First, the practical, definite aid that can be given through W.P.A., P.W.A., the C. C. C. Camps and various other Government agencies on actual work, plus the Government lending agencies. As I understand it, in the loaning agencies, especially the R. F. C., there is enough money left over from previous appropriations to take care of the immediate loan needs. Of course it is too early yet to tell what may be necessary in addition to those two factors.

The immediate situation is being taken care of without any additional legislation.

Q There have been reports from up there that labor troubles are hampering the moving of food into the New England areas.

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard about it.

Q New York truck drivers.

Q That, and the railroads are being hampered in loading cars of food.

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard about that. Find out from Hopkins and the Red Cross.

Q Mr. President, have you heard when Commissioner McNutt will return from Manila?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard; I do not know.

Q About a week ago there was a U. P. story from Halifax saying that four large airports are being built at Nova Scotia and that they will be available to the United States in case of need. Can you tell us anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Off the record, it sounds like a U. P. story.

Q (Mr. Storm) Always right, Mr. President. (Laughter)

Q Can you tell us anything about the construction of airports under the Wilcox Bill?

THE PRESIDENT: You know everything about it that I do. They have certain ones being built.

Q The only one announced is Seattle.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that is the only one they have money for.

Q That is the only one that has been located under the Wilcox Bill and it is probably for military air base.

THE PRESIDENT: It is the only one that money has been appropriated for, is it not?

Q The location was to have been announced first.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know anything about the location. I can only spend money when it has been appropriated.

Q Do you have in mind any additional correspondence with Mr. Hitler and Mr. Benes?

THE PRESIDENT: No news on that.

Q Can you tell us anything about the visit of Charles West?

THE PRESIDENT: I have forgotten now what we did talk about. There wasn't any particular news; I have not seen him for some time. He has been going around the country. We just talked about general things.

Q Anything on Ohio discussed at all?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Are you likely to see Secretaries Hull and Welles again today?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably again at six o'clock.

Q Referring to the international situation, is there any difference now in the attitude of this Government between the sentiments you expressed in Chautauqua in July, 1936, with respect to America's end of the situation in the World War, that holds good now?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the best way to do is to tell you -- you remember Mr. Coolidge came back from listening to a sermon?

Q I recall that.

THE PRESIDENT: He was agin it, Well, I am agin evil and for peace.

Q Mr. President, does your answer, "no news" on the question of more correspondence with Hitler and Benes mean that you think you have done all you can for the present?

THE PRESIDENT: It means no news for you, any of you today, and do not try to guess and do not try to interpret when I say there is no news. And now,that is all there is.

Q I understand there is some negotiation between Civil Aeronautics and P. W. A. by which an airport might be built here with P. W. A. money. It is in some hazy state. Do you know anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Has anything come out about that?

Q I do not think it has come out as a definite matter.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is perfectly proper to say that my position has been, all along, as you know, the same position that was taken by, I think, President Coolidge about 1927, that the airport facilities of the National Capital were inadequate and unsafe and I think President Coolidge was the first one to ask Congress that something be done about it. I know that President Hoover did the same thing and I know that I have been doing it steadily for five and one-half years and nothing has been done. That is for a total of about eleven years. So I felt that human lives were at stake and we could not wait another eleven years and therefore I put it up to the Civil Aeronautics Authority, as one of the first things, to make a recommendation. They made a recommendation that speed was essential, that something ought to be done and that the National Capital should have at least two thoroughly adequate airports, one close in for 95% use and the other for the other five per cent of the time when it is foggy on the river, or for storms --

things of that kind, but the first and most immediate need was for an airport that could be used most of the time. They therefore recommended the immediate development of the Gravelly Point site.

We are now studying with the various agencies of the Government as to whether we can immediately proceed to the building of the Gravelly Point Airport as the first of two. That involves -- would involve the supervision of the project, as a project, by the National -- by the Civil Aeronautics Authority. In other words, they would be the sponsors and various agencies would carry out the actual work for the Civil Aeronautics Authority. We would have the Army engineers, for instance, on the dredging end of things, the W. P. A. in moving dirt from the upland down into the site, and I think there are one or two other Government agencies concerned. In any event, we are studying now on the tying in of all of the Government agencies into this one project so that we may start in right away.

Q I understand that P. W. A. funds have all run out. That was the last thing I heard about.

THE PRESIDENT: I think there are P. W. A. and there may be some Army funds loose; I do not know.

Q It looks like it will get started pretty soon?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so.

Q Did you talk about building a new airship for the Navy to Edison?

THE PRESIDENT: There is no decision on that and won't be for a good many weeks.

Q For a good many reasons?

THE PRESIDENT: For a good many weeks and a good many reasons.

Q Could I ask whether you expect something after six o'clock tonight, when you meet Mr. Hull and Mr. Welles?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I do not think so. As far as I can tell, I don't think you will be called out of bed tonight, Fred (Mr. Storm).

Q Coming back to your talk on reorganization, was there any compromise proposed that would make the bill more acceptable to the House?

THE PRESIDENT: No, we just talked about the general need for better business methods in the Government.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Wait a minute, Mr. Wile (Frederic William Wile) is here. May we adjourn?

Q (Mr. Wile) Objection sustained. (Laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #487,
Executive Offices of the White House,
September 30, 1938, 10.45 A.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any special news. I have tentative plans to go up to Hyde Park tomorrow night and stay just for a few days. That is tentative, however.

Q Did you say two days or a few days?

THE PRESIDENT: A few days.

Q Mr. President, have you any plans in regard to the appointment of a new Comptroller General?

THE PRESIDENT: Not now.

Q Do you intend to submit a new reorganization bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Submit what?

Q A new bill to reorganize the Federal Government?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose probably you will know all about it on the third of January.

Q Mr. President, reports from Albany say that Governor Lehman has consented to run again for Governor rather than try for the Senate. Any comment?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I heard from Albany this morning that that was the fact and it made me extremely happy.

MR. EARLY: Albany or Rochester?

THE PRESIDENT: I mean Rochester. As far as I understand, the present plan of the Convention is to renominate the Governor who, of course, has been a perfectly splendid Governor the whole of the six years since he has been there, and Senator

Wagner, who is a very definite credit to the State of New York -- and people know it. And then Jim Mead -- we all know his record in the Congress, and believe it will meet with general public approval in the State. Also, as I understand it, the Comptroller, who has been Comptroller I don't know how many years, starting under Al Smith.

Q That is Tremaine?

THE PRESIDENT: He was Comptroller under me and Comptroller under Governor Lehman and under him as Comptroller the finances of the State of New York have been in splendid shape all the way through.

I understand they propose to renominate Jack Bennett, whom some of you older people will remember I suggested to the Convention in Syracuse in 1930 as a very excellent Attorney General. I understand they are talking about nominating Charlie Poletti for Lieutenant Governor. Charlie Poletti is more recent in the public service but he has had a very splendid record, first at Albany and then as a judge. I think that is all that need be said about that.

Q Can you comment on the turn of events toward peace in Europe?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, on the State ticket, did you indicate what, if anything, you had to do with the naming of the slate?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I had nothing to do with it. The Convention will decide -- (laughter)

Q Mr. President, are you likely to appoint a Supreme Court justice before the Court meets?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no news on that.

Q Have you selected a successor to Mr. Hanes on the Securities and Exchange Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Mr. President, is there anybody in your mind at the moment for the Ambassadorship to Soviet Russia?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, have you decided yet whether to make a trip to Wisconsin and other states in the vicinity sometime next month?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not thought of it.

Q Are you going to Michigan?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not that I know of.

Q Pennsylvania?

THE PRESIDENT: Same story as I told you two or three weeks or a month ago. Nothing new on that.

Q Can you tell us anything about your conference yesterday with Morgenthau, Jesse Jones and [Tapp] Papp on what we were told was some wheat plan?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, a general survey of the situation.

Q We were given to understand that there was something new on that.

THE PRESIDENT: We are trying to move wheat, as you know. It is the general situation.

On the European thing, the only thing I think I can comment on is the very wonderful service that was done by the Secretary of State and the Under Secretary and the other people in the Department of State, plus the American diplomatic stations at the various capitals that were concerned in it. It is a very fine example of team play and everybody working right together with very great success. Also I might add to that the fine way in which both the press and the radio kept their feet on the ground, nearly all of them. I have to qualify that and say, "nearly all of them" during a moment of very serious world tension. It was, as we all know, a very definite crisis and, though there are many things which are called crises which are not, this one was.

Q Have you noticed any rapidity or speed of crises, et cetera, by the use of radio? It seems to me that folks know so much and make up their minds so rapidly.

Q Louder, please.

Q (Mr. Godwin) I asked you, sir, if you had noticed any difference in speed by which these so-called crises approach their limit by reason of the ease of use of radio, et cetera. Here people make up their minds about it and the world seems to act very much more quickly. I was wondering whether that was an element?

THE PRESIDENT: That is an element today and there is also the element that because of radio,easier communications and because of the airplane, the meeting of the situation is also speeded up, so that it works both ways. Things do come to a head quicker and at the same time they can be tided over more quickly, if tiding over is a possibility. That applies not only to the theatre of the crisis but to the whole world. For instance, as we all know, in this particular crisis a very large portion of the earth's surface took some part in an expression of Government opinion and public opinion.

Q Are we still encouraging Americans to leave Europe, sir, or has that taken more or less care of itself?

THE PRESIDENT: We were yesterday; I do not know the answer today.

Q Have you received an intimation or proposal that this Government have some part in the work of the commission setting up new boundaries for the Sudetan?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There was a note came in yesterday afternoon sometime but, of course, there again things move so fast that the --

Q (interposing) That was from the Czechs?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes -- that the situation was changed almost before the note was received.

Q Is it your feeling that that note now, of course, requires no comment or answer?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you will have to ask the Secretary of State about that.

I have got a statement here which I asked Steve (Mr. Early) to have mimeographed for you. It tells the status of the P.W.A. grants and it is very clear. There is no use my taking up time now in reading it. It shows the applications received, et cetera and so on.

Q Any District Commission news?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Is Mr. Wile satisfied?

MR. WILE: Perfectly. (Laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #488,
In the President's Study at his Hyde Park Home,
October 4, 1938, 12.45 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I have anything except routine news. Steve (Mr. Early) will give to you today, for your own information -- it is to be released in Washington -- the first of three stories on the problem of the northern Great Plains drought area. We are doing it in three stories because the average person could not digest all three of them at the same time.

MR. EARLY: It is voluminous.

THE PRESIDENT: The area is the eastern two-thirds of Montana, all of North and South Dakota, and the northeast quarter of Wyoming and the northern half of Nebraska. That is five states. In other words, it is the northern half of the drought strip.

We are always wrong in talking about the "dust bowl" and "drought bowl" because, actually, as you know, it is a strip that runs from the Canadian line almost down to the Gulf of Mexico. This is a pretty good report on the northern half of it.

It is to be released for October seventh morning papers. You can look it over, just so that you know what is going on down in Washington.

Then I have a request from Norman Davis, Chairman of the Red Cross, that I say something for the benefit of New England, about the erroneous impression that a good many people have that it is not necessary to give money for the Red Cross work in New England because they think that the Government has taken charge of relief.

He asks me merely to call attention to the fact that the Government is taking care, through WPA and PWA and RFC and Farm Credit, etc., of the physical needs, like the restoration of bridges and roads, public properties, the clearing away of debris -- in other words, the purely physical side of it. The Government has an excellently coordinated system but the Government cannot look after the human needs, the rehabilitation of families, the helping of men and women and children who have no other resources nor credit of their own and that, of course, still devolves on an agency sustained by public subscription, in other words, the American Red Cross.

I hope very much that the American Red Cross will get the funds in accordance with a little statement that Governor Cross made asking cooperation with the Red Cross, "for its very existence is a true demonstration of neighborliness and it is a work of God."

In other words, that is something that the Government cannot do. I am telling you that just to clear up the situation.

(Addressing Mr. Early) Send word to Norman that I have carried out my word and spoken to the Press about it.

Q There was a story appearing in the papers this morning, a speech by Under Secretary Welles, in which he suggested that one way of settling everything was to have world disarmament. Can we assume that a move may be made by this country?

THE PRESIDENT: Fred (Storm), I think the easiest thing to do would be to ask you to do a little home work -- in other words, stick entirely to the record. The record, of course, is very, very clear on the things that this country has done in the last five years and, secondly, the things that have been said by the Secretary of State and myself. I don't think it is necessary to add anything to it. I think it is just plain stick by the record and not elaborate on American English.

Q The time is not yet ripe where you can take us behind the scenes and tell us the background of the show of the last ten days?

THE PRESIDENT: Sumner (Under Secretary Welles) did that pretty well last night. Did you hear him?

Q No, we did not.

THE PRESIDENT: That was pretty adequately covered last night. That gave the timetable and the reasons for the move.

Q Mr. Chamberlain gave a speech yesterday. Have you any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Now that the Supreme Court is back in session, may we expect an appointment to the vacancy?

THE PRESIDENT: I would have to say the same old story, no news on that.

Q Could I ask this: Is it possible, as suggested, that you will wait until January because Congress --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No news on that.

Q We got a couple of vacancies in Illinois -- I think a District Judge at Chicago and a Circuit Court Judge at Chicago. Is there any news on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Quite a few around the country. Is there any news on any of them?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Sorry I cannot be more helpful.

Q Any plans to see Governor Lehman in the near future?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably before election, yes. I cannot give you any date because no actual specific appointment has been made. It depends very largely, of course, on his plans. There is a campaign on.

Q Are you going to make a speech for the ticket between now and election day?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not the faintest idea; I don't know.

Q Have you any visitors today, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I have got one of the school trustees, Mr. White, and Mr. [Van Wagner?] Von Wagoner coming to see me at 2.00 o'clock to talk to me about this new merger that went through.

Q Are you pretty well pleased the way it has turned out?

THE PRESIDENT: It is very constructive. I think the thing had to be done and it has been done within the time limit. Apparently the Poughkeepsie school problem did not go through under the dead line, did it?

Q I think they are trying to do something. They wired a couple of hours before the dead line.

THE PRESIDENT: In Poughkeepsie? I thought Hyde Park did it.

Q Yes, they did.

THE PRESIDENT: If some of you people want to write a story, get it from our Poughkeepsie brethren as to what happened in the Board of Supervisors. This is off the record but is a tip for you on what happened in the Board of Supervisors on the question of local relief. I think it is one of the best illustrations I know. They met, as I read the papers this morning -- this is off the record, entirely, just so that maybe you would want to write a story with a little lesson in it on the question of relief in this county -- not Federal relief at all, this is the home relief end of it. Home relief, as I understand it -- check me if I am not right -- has been handled through a county board?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Now, these are state and local funds. The Federal Government has nothing to do with it at all. But, you see, it has a bearing on the effort to return all relief handling to the localities. There is quite an effort being made along that line all over the country.

On this particular phase of it, as I understand it from reading the Star and the Eagle, the County Board was charged by the Grange of wasteful extravagance and things like that and they had all kinds of meetings and it got to be quite a hot issue. So, yesterday, in the Board they did not approve anything, as I understand it, there being a complete division of opinion. Didn't they have an investigation and did not approve a damn thing?

Q They are all too uninformed now; they don't want to take a step.

THE PRESIDENT: Yesterday they had a meeting with the idea of returning the administration of relief to the twenty-one townships in the county. The supervisors in those townships did not have machinery to set up local relief administration and they did not know what to do and the result was that they just sort of wandered around the entire subject for an hour or two. I guess it was a closed meeting, but everybody knows what goes on in closed meetings, and the town supervisors, in the first place, said, "We don't know anything about this; we don't know what to do." And, secondly, some of the supervisors from the poorer towns made the point, properly, that if it was put back on the towns, the poorer towns, which needed the most money, would get the least money. The town of East Fishkill -- not Fishkill, oh, what is the town? -- and the other town, where there is very little in the way of assessed values and much poverty -- those are the places that need most relief and, under this system, would get the least relief.

I loved one line in the Eagle this morning, which is another illustration, just talking about political education, the Eagle this morning said that although no decision was reached and there seemed to be great confusion over the question, undoubtedly the matter will be decided in a Republican caucus to be held before the next meeting. (Laughter) To be holding a Republican caucus! I think that is one of the most beautiful object lessons on the handling of local relief in most places in the United States that I know of. I could say the same thing for Georgia. There the question would be just as political. It would not be a question there of Republicans or Democrats, it would be a question between one faction of Democrats in Meriwether County and another faction of Democrats as to which one controls the County Commission down there. They do not have townships down there but they have County Commissions. In Albany, New York, local relief, of course, would be handled by the O'Connell boys. Let us be quite frank. In Syracuse, local relief would be handled by Mayor Marvin who is the Republican counterpart of the O'Connell boys.

That little line in the Eagle this morning was one of the most beautiful illustrations, that the whole policy on relief before the next meeting is held will be determined in a caucus of the Republican members of the Board of Supervisors. I think it is grand. (Laughter)

Q It would be grand on the record.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, this is off the record. It is just a little lesson.

Q Mr. President, the Federal Communications Commission took action last week which raised the question of radio censorship. They voted four to one, Commissioner Craven dissenting, to cite a small station out in Minneapolis for reasons to show cause why their license should not be taken away. That action would include the entire blue network of National Broadcasting on the ground that the broadcast of Eugene O'Neill's play, "Beyond the Horizon," had been guilty of putting profane and indecent language on the air. The specific charges were that in O'Neill's play the words "Hell," "damn," and "for God's sake" had been used. (Laughter)

Craven, of course, violently opposed and the other four went down the line for it. Now they are told by the counsel of the station and of course they are getting National Broadcasting to represent them so that precedent won't be established, and they said that they had been following the advice of the Commission that they should put on educational things, and after they had put on Toscanini's broadcast, they then took this second sustaining program, which was putting the best dramatic art of the United States --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Was Toscanini all right? (Laughter)

Q Yes. Toscanini went first and then, to carry on that same tradition of high grade art, they took the twelve Pulitzer prize plays of American dramatists and, to do that, taken as a sustaining program, they threw aside a commercial program. The first they put on was Eugene O'Neill's play, which was the first Pulitzer prize play, for which they are now up on charges.

Now, that raises the whole question of Government policy with respect to the question of morals, etc., so far as the air is concerned. I wonder if you would comment?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot because I never heard of it.

Q I think it is a delightful situation.

THE PRESIDENT: I would not dare comment on it because, off the record, it would get me into the most awful censorship of words which are used extensively in the Bible.

Q And very extensively by Mr. Early. (Laughter)

Q Mr. Patterson began his editorial comment of it, "Damn it the Hell, it is bad."

THE PRESIDENT: (Laughter) Good.

MR. EARLY: The papers went through the mails all right?

Q Yes, the paper is going through the mails. If I want to say it over the air, why shouldn't I be able to do it the same way? Let the people themselves criticize me but not have a Government agency --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Again, off the record, you remember the situation last spring or winter with Mae West?

Q That was the precedent.

THE PRESIDENT: Now, the script was all right -- if you or I read it, all right, but Mae West -- my God, what she put into it! How do you censor intonation? Now, that is a nice question, How can you censor intonation?

Q Now the question comes, should those who have charge of radio set themselves up as monitors of morals to rap anybody over the knuckles or should, their sole function be that of seeing --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Now, of course there is another thing. This is off the record. Suppose somebody does something outrageous, something which would shock Fred (Storm) and me? (Laughter)

Q I would like to see that done. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Ought not there be somebody in the country to stop that sort of thing that would really honestly shock Fred and me? That is the other side of it and nobody knows the answer. Do you think that is a good way of putting it? There is a limit and somebody ought to step in, if necessary.

MR. EARLY: Then, too, Mr. President, I suppose at least four of the five on the Radio Commission read their regulations. They try to take words to define those things in the form of regulations and Acts of Congress, too, and I suppose they put on a literal interpretation.

Q That question was, "Is it profane to say, 'For God's sake'?" That is the point at issue.

THE PRESIDENT: To some people it is very profane.

MR. EARLY: The law says you cannot use profanity.

Q Isn't there a regulation similar to that about matter going through the mails?

MR. EARLY: "Obscene" and "indecent" is the postal regulation. It does not say, "profane."

THE PRESIDENT: It does not say, "profane." Do you suppose the Radio Communicationslaw says, "profane"?

MR. EARLY: It says, "Profanity in any form or degree."

Q You have no greater authority than Dr. Early. (Laughter)

MR. EARLY: Thank you, Mr. Trohan.

Q We have had a lot of war and rumors of war in the last two weeks. I noticed this morning that the steel index is climbing and the stock market going up. I thought you might be able to tell us something about what you hear of general business conditions throughout the country. It would come as a rather welcome relief to international affairs.

THE PRESIDENT: Do you want me to talk off the record?

Q No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Now, let me do it this way: Let me talk to you not for attribution.

MR. EARLY: That won't help them.

Q From Hyde Park?

Q Under a Hyde Park date line?

THE PRESIDENT: Under a Hyde Park date line. In other words, use one of your timeworn phrases, "from sources close to the President." (Laughter) Use one of those old things which generally originate in your own mind. In this case it won't.

MR. EARLY: Which makes it legitimate.

THE PRESIDENT: Isn't that good? Nine times out of ten, when you say that, it has originated in your own original minds or from talking it over in the tap room.

Q This is a precedent?

THE PRESIDENT: This is a precedent. It gives you a beautiful idea. In other words, this is something you can really put down as saying it originated in sources close to the summer White House. It is one of those exceptions.

MR. EARLY: Good morning, Judge. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: This is a brand new one, isn't it? In other words, if you leave me out entirely, I would write a story with that thing, "sources close to the White House," that it is felt that the crisis in Europe had an analogy in the industrial economic problems of the United States; that the parallel of saber rattling and mobilization of armies in Europe -- the parallel of artificial creation of a crisis between nations over there is to be found over here in the extravagant statements, the misrepresentation of Government policies, for political benefit; in the painting of over-dark pictures; the setting up of bogeys before the eyes of business and industry; illustrations being the effort to make it appear that the Federal Government was going to put TVAs all over the United States; that it was impossible to raise money for power -- for new privately-owned power plants; that the Governmental tax burden was far higher that it had been a year ago, or three years ago or five years ago; followed by many forms of attack on our own Government, which were clearly for partisan purposes.

From that we can learn -- from that parallel we can learn the same kind of a lesson that we have learned in the last two weeks in Europe. And that is that if we stop calling each other names and rattling the domestic industrial sword, we can have industrial peace instead of industrial war between industry and Government. And in the field of labor, instead of using the Eugene O'Neill language (laughter), which cannot be carried over the radio, if we would cut out those epithets, we would stand to have labor peace between different factions of labor on the one side and labor and capital on the other far more readily than if we continue to use the epithets.

In other words, to put it in one brief sentence, the quicker we sit around the table and stop calling names, the quicker we will get a resumption of business and industry at home.

Q Cannot we have that on the record?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q It is going to sound awfully like President Roosevelt. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Now, on the practical end, it seems fairly certain that the shelves of merchandise all through the country are far more empty than they were a year ago, in most lines. Also that the demand on the part of the consuming public is off from a year ago much less than a lot of the tearing-down stories would lead you to believe.

Secondly, the general Governmental program for Governmental expenditures -- use the generic term of priming of the pump -- will not reach their maximum until next spring. For example, all the PWA projects, of which nearly all have now been allocated, most of them will not reach the maximum of employment that they give until next spring. The same thing is true of Nathan Straus' housing, which is up between five and six million dollars, and which will not be under way, obviously, until next spring.

All of these different things point to a very definite increase in business of all kinds.

With it there is a definite policy on the part of the Government and on the part of the clearer thinking business men to keep prices from going through the roof. Taking the old example, we all know that copper can be produced in this country at a profit, all the copper we can use, at not to exceed twelve or thirteen cents a pound. One of the things, as we all know, that brought on the curtailment, recession, or, if you are writing for certain papers, the depression, in August of 1937 was the fact that some things, like copper, went clear through the roof and people quit buying. Copper went to eighteen cents. At the same time there are certain other commodities the level of which everybody in the country ought to try to raise. Examples are cotton and wheat, because there the price does not meet the cost of production. They ought to be raised.

But, taking it by and large, if we would go ahead with an orderly improvement in business, trying to bolster up the prices that are too low and trying to keep any prices from going too high, we can look forward to a pretty good year from now on.

I think that covers it pretty well.

Q Would you want to say in the case of cotton and wheat that the prices now do not reach the cost of production?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q In connection with the copper prices, Mr. President, I was doing a little studying --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Of course the cost of production at a profit. Put that in. What is that, Fred (Storm)?

Q (Mr. Storm) I saw in the paper this morning where Anaconda had opened its largest mine in the country, putting 4500 men to work, which they explained was an increase of about 3000 over the number who had been working since the mines shut down about eight months ago.

THE PRESIDENT: There is no question employment is going up, Fred (Storm), more than seasonally at the present time.

Q Mr. President, can we revert to the European situation for a moment? Could you tell us what you think of the settlement over there, if it is a settlement for peace?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot tell you because that, you see, involves me in just what I said I would not do.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

Q Are you going to the World Series?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I cannot.

Q Could we get something -- what release is this Press Conference?

MR. EARLY: Morning papers.

Q Four o'clock?

MR. EARLY: Four o'clock filings, yes.

Q Take judicial notice of the fact that Early (Secretary Early) was not at church on Sunday.

THE PRESIDENT: I know it, and also take judicial notice of the fact that you were.

Q If I had weighed fifteen pounds more I would have brought him.

MR. EARLY: I was in the choir there, the deep bass voice. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I always knew he was a prima donna; it is all right.

MR. EARLY: I was pinch-hitting for Mac.

Q (by Mr. Beal of the New York Herald-Tribune) I would like to ask one question. I don't know if you saw the piece of mine about the situation in some Government departments where the clerks were being pretty badly overworked with fifty million hours of overtime built up in a six months' period and where the situation in some offices shows that there is, perhaps, a deliberate attempt to slow down to meet the exigencies that are piled on them. I have information from your division heads and personnel men that some offices are from three to six months in arrears in their work and I was just wondering if you contemplate, Mr. President, asking additional funds from Congress for administrative work in order to relieve the situation -- or perhaps with the passage of the Reorganization Bill to aid in curing the situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Let me put it three ways: The first is that the Congress determines what functions shall be carried on. The Congress also determines how many people will be assigned to carry out those functions -- those orders of Congress. Now, the situation is pointed out to the Congress in the Budget hearings --

MR. EARLY: And in the annual reports also, which are just coming along.

THE PRESIDENT: -- and in the annual reports. So, the responsibility is on the Congress to do one of two things -- one of three things, really: Either let the situation drift and let us stay in arrears. That is the first. Or, two, eliminate some of the functions or to give more personnel to carry them out. In other words, under the existing system, the Administrative Branch of the Government does the best it can to carry out orders given it by the Congress.

It is perfectly true that a great deal of work is in arrears, perfectly true that in a good many bureaus overtime is excessive.

Now, that is a problem and we do the best we can, in view of the actual appropriations that are given to us and in view of the orders to do this, that or the other thing that are also given us by the Congress.

Now, at the same time -- this is off the record -- here is another point I wish you would look into. Years ago, the second or third year in the Navy Department, I was the chairman of an Interdepartmental Personnel Board and we went down, in our own department -- Sam McGowan, who is a perfectly grand fellow, and Admiral Peoples, his assistant, they went down in their own department, Supplies and Accounts, and they found there was an unwritten rule among the girls that the number of letters to be written in the course of the day was fifteen - I would say fifteen one-page letters -- that was a rule among the girls, and when they had written their fifteen, they quit, they slowed up. Furthermore, we found in all the departments that they were beating the clock and the total number of hours that was being worked at that time be Government employees -- this was peace time, before the World War -- ran around six and one-half hours of useful work.

Now, that is the other side of the story, and there are -- this is off the record -- unquestionably in Washington a great many bureaus where there is by agreement, tacit consent, a slowing down of work. "We won't do more than fifteen letters a day." Now, anybody knows, who runs a typewriter, that it ought to have been twenty-four, or whatever it was. That was pretty well eliminated during war time because everybody was working at top speed. Whether it has crept in again, I don't know, except that it is always something to consider.

Q I understand that there were thirty-five million hours in Baltimore, a very acute situation, and that in spite of your letter of August sixteenth last year, calling attention to the fact that Government employees should not strike against the Government, that they have been almost on the point of striking, a sitdown strike.

THE PRESIDENT: There you are. We are trying to do a job with inadequate funds on that particular thing. Now you ask about a Reorganization Bill. That would help very, very much, no question about that, because it would eliminate, in our judgment, enough duplication of work so that the same funds would get rid of just what you are talking about. Now, actually, of course, that is a saving of money because if you appropriate the same money and do ten per cent more work with it, you have actually saved money. That is the easiest way of putting it.

Q Mr. President, is the Reorganization Bill going to be one of the first orders of business by the new Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, Fred (Storm), I have not got a slant on the third of January yet.

Q Adolph Sabath is for it. (Laughter)

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #489,
In the Study of the President's Home at Hyde Park,
October 7, 1938, 10.45 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: How is everybody? There is a release coming out from Washington on the detail and I won't give you that, but I do want to discuss with you the general subject of trying to end water pollution of streams. I have a book here today with PWA allotments for 113 additional sewage disposal projects in almost every part of the nation to end pollution in streams and lakes, where they are located, providing for $19,588,000. worth of construction of disposal plants, sewers and other means to clean up local streams and rivers in thirty states and Puerto Rico.

They started in five years ago to encourage communities to end the pollution of lakes and rivers and the work is progressing very well. Off the record, the City of Poughkeepsie is still dumping its sewage in within half a mile of where it is taking its water out.

Q In the Nelson House? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I said that was off the record.

MR. EARLY: Drinking water, Mr. President, never involved anyone in the Nelson House.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't blame them. I would not drink water in Poughkeepsie.

Q Will the tide carry up that far?

THE PRESIDENT: Sure. The tide carries water back and forth about six miles.

Q That is another good reason.

THE PRESIDENT: And none of these different allotments will continue sewage disposal into lakes and rivers. Since 1933 PWA loans, not counting what WPA has done, I approved have carried through approximately 500 sewage disposal plants at a total construction cost of over a billion and a quarter of dollars in five years. That is pretty good.

MR. EARLY: But not including this?

THE PRESIDENT: Not including this. The communities assessed themselves for over half this amount in order to become partners with the Federal Government in this valuable work. This water purification work is finally producing tangible results. It is a splendid beginning and efforts must be continued for the cleaning up of our rivers on a national scale.

Let us see: Oh, yes, I got a rather nice suggestion this morning and I cannot say anything more than it is a suggestion and is being looked into further. Governor Bibb Graves, of Alabama, remembering how generous New England was in former disasters that hit the South, hurricanes, has suggested some kind of a big football game in the lower South, the proceeds to be contributed to the Red Cross work in New England. It is a rather nice suggestion because it is the unreconstructed rebel helping the damn yankee and is in line with what we call the domestic good neighbor policy. The thing is being looked into and we have encouraged him to go ahead with the idea.

I don't think there is any other thing outside of that, do you?

Q Do you have the J. Russell Young School of Expression in that team?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter)

The Duchess of Athol, a Member of Parliament, is coming to lunch.

MR. EARLY: And leaving right after lunch.

THE PRESIDENT: And leaving right after lunch.

MR. EARLY: She is taking the 2.00 o'clock train to New York.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q When do you plan to return to Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: Sunday night.

Q Are you coming back up here again?

THE PRESIDENT: The following week for, I hope, a week.

Felix Frankfurter and Mrs. Frankfurter are coming over for their regular visit. They come every year about this time. They are coming tomorrow and leaving Sunday night and, off the record, I warn you -- I warn you not to get out on the old proverbial limb. It doesn't do much good, though you love limbs and you love to saw them off.

(Addressing Mr. Early) I think we ought to have a new name for them -- the tree trimmers. Isn't that what they are called?

MR. EARLY: Why not distribute copies of the old phrase, "Woodman, spare that tree." (Laughter)

Q You sent a note to Mr. Chamberlain, did you not, Mr. President, on the question of refugees?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes.

MR. EARLY: The State Department O.K.'d that.

Q Anything --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No; it speaks for itself.

Q What did it say? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Ask the State Department. I haven't got a copy of it here. It was all handled by telephone.

Q Is there anything we can say on the record in the local press in connection with this ridding of the Hudson River of pollution? Of course it is a very vital thing right here in Poughkeepsie. In turning down this thing, there was a feeling that they should get some state aid on the question -- I don't know -- in addition to the federal aid, to aid communities in constructing these plants. I don't know whether there is --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't know, frankly, I don't know any of the financial details at all except that for twenty-five years I have been talking to the people of Poughkeepsie about two subjects. The first was to quit dumping raw sewage into the Hudson River and, second, to get a decent supply of pure drinking water -- not out of the Hudson River -- which, during the whole of the twenty-five years has been a perfectly practical self-liquidating plan under the law, -- that is, getting the water -- but nobody has done it.

Q So there isn't anything you can say on the record?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except that I have been trying to accomplish those two things and suggesting it for twenty-five years and perhaps it will be another twenty-five years before something is done.

Q Heywood Broun told us yesterday that he had suggested to you the creation of a fact-finding committee to study labor relations in the United States, similar to that committee which went abroad at your request. Is there anything you can tell us on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing except that I told him the suggestion would be studied. I made one suggestion to Heywood Broun and I don't know whether he spoke to you about it. Of course one of the problems of taking care of newspaper men on relief is that there are very, very few projects which you can invent for them. It is pretty difficult and one of the suggestions came to me the other day from Archie Watson, former corporation counsel of New York. He has been studying the thing for about six months. In practically every community which is fifty or sixty years old, there are a great many records that ought to be published and we are working on the idea of publishing these records. It does take the kind of skill that the average newspaper man can carry out perfectly well, that of having the records copied, edited and actually published.

The point of it is that on a project of that kind the actual cost per man per year can be kept very low if you sell the volumes for approximately the cost of the physical production of them. Not the editorial cost, but the cost of printing and binding and proof reading. A very good example is the plan in 1933, when I first went to Washington. I knew that the Navy Department had all these perfectly wonderful, very interesting old Captains' letters of the early Navy -- the war with France, the war with the Barbary pirates, the war of 1812. They had never been published. They just existed in the Navy Department. So we got $10,000. from Congress to publish the first volume. We sold the first volume for $10,000., got another appropriation for $10,000. and sold the second volume for $10,000. So far they have published four volumes of the old Navy records. It is a beautiful job and, as each volume is published, it pays for itself. The net result is that the Government, at the end of the series, won't be out of pocket for the printing and binding one red cent. The only additional cost, of course, is the editing of these things.

We have here in Poughkeepsie, for example, WPA projects which have done an excellent job in the County Courthouse in copying and listing the old records of this county and, I think, of the City of Poughkeepsie. But they have never been published and they can be published very easily under the auspices of the Dutchess County Historical Society, and the same thing is true in almost every county, and sold to libraries and collectors all over the United States, so as to bring back a portion of the cost of such projects.

That is one suggestion I made to Heywood Broun and we are going to give it further study.

Here is something interesting: Here is one of the things that Archie Watson dug out. This is off the record but it is very interesting. This is, I think, one of the most interesting of all historical documents. This is an indenture, in other words a contract, dated 1760, which is not so long ago.

> (Reading) "THIS INDENTURE Witnesseth, That Johanna Dwyer an Infant aged about eight years and an half Hath put herself, and by these Presents, by & with the Consent of Edward Dwyer and Ellinor his wife her parents signifyed by their being parties to these presents doth voluntarily, and of her own free Will and Accord, --"

Get this picture, this child eight and a half years old putting herself as apprentice.

> (Reading) "-- put herself Apprentice to Elizabeth Wright of the City of New York, widow, to learn the

> Art of bleeding and midwifery and after the Manner of an Apprentice, to serve from the Day of the Date hereof, for and during, and until the full End and Term of Eleven years & Six Months next ensuing; during all which Time, the said Apprentice her said Mistress faithfully shall serve, her Secrets keep, her lawful Commands every where readily obey: She shall do no Damage to her said Mistress nor see it to be done by others, without letting, or giving Notice thereof to her said Mistress: She shall not waste her said Mistresses Goods, nor lend them unlawfully to any: She shall not commit Fornication, nor contract Matrimony within the said Term: At Cards, Dice, or any other unlawful Game, she shall not play, whereby her said Mistress may have Damage: With her own Goods, nor the Goods of others, without Licence from her said Mistress, she shall neither buy nor sell: She shall not absent herself Day nor Night from her said Mistress her service, without her Leave; nor haunt Ale-houses, Taverns, or Play-houses; but in all Things behave herself as a faithful Apprentice ought to do, during the said Term. And the said Elizabeth shall use the utmost of her Endeavours to teach, or cause to be taught or instructed, the said Apprentice in the Art of Bleeding and Midwifery and procure and provide for her sufficient Meat, Drink, Apparel, Lodging and Washing, fitting for an Apprentice, during the said Term of Eleven years and six months --"

In other words, until she is nineteen years of age. No pay, remember.

> (Reading) "-- and at the Expiration thereof give unto the said apprentice two Suits of Cloaths and during the said Term teach the said Apprentice to read and write."

I think it is an amazing document, right in this country in 1760, and yet when you come to think of it, as Heywood Broun remarked yesterday, that child of eight and a half was a good deal better off than many children of these days who are in canning factories or picking up crops, without board, lodging, food or anything else. It is a very interesting document.

Q That is what the Herald-Tribune would call "Youth control."

THE PRESIDENT: Youth control is right.

Q Did Senator Guffey convince you yesterday that everything was safe in Pennsylvania?

THE PRESIDENT: He told me what he told you.

Q I think that was nothing. The only thing he told us was that the ticket would be elected by two hundred thousand.

Q There is a report down in New York that you are going to speak in New York City on the Saturday night before election.

THE PRESIDENT: I have no date whatsoever.

Q Looking forward to a departure story, which is the only cheerful one, is there any particular reason for going back to Washington next week?

THE PRESIDENT: Except to transact business.

Q I assumed that but thought possibly that there might be some conference.

Q Steve (Mr. Early) is kind of broken up about it. He was figuring on all next week in Hyde Park. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: One reason for being there is Mrs. Roosevelt's birthday on Tuesday. She cannot get up here because she has to go off that night or the next day.

MR. EARLY: And you have a lot of appointments.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; people cannot get up here.

Q Are you alternating on these trips between Steve (Mr. Early) and Mac (Mr. McIntyre)?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Mac is having such a good time down there, and --

MR. EARLY: (interposing) And that is the end of the story. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I left it hanging in the air; it is all right.

Q Before these November elections, do you expect to say anything on the various pension proposals? There would be California and Colorado --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) You mean out loud, publicly?

Q Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: No; only, confidentially and off the record, just between us girls, it is funnier than a crutch, one of the funniest things that happened. You will notice that the old fat cat papers -- off the record -- they have not mentioned, except way down at the end of the last column, on page nine, that up in Maine there were three Republican candidates for Congress who came out and went up and down the whole State of Maine saying, "I am in favor of the Townsend Plan." All these old papers, like the Herald-Tribune, the Chicago Tribune, the New York Times quiet it down.

And over in Massachusetts young Saltonstall entered into an agreement with the candidate for Governor by which he would withdraw as Governor and Saltonstall, as part of his agreement, said to the public, "I am very much interested in the objectives of the Townsend Plan and will give it my serious consideration." It was all cut down.

Q (Mr. Belair) Page one of the New York Times on that one.

THE PRESIDENT: It is awfully funny. I got a great kick out of it, the way it was handled.

MR. EARLY: Isn't it true that the platform in California eliminated the thirty dollar bread and butter plan --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes.

MR. EARLY: -- from the campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Do you plan any active interest in the Dutchess County campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose I will see Jim Townsend from time to time.

Q Do you plan to be here election day?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q I did not quite understand those figures you gave for the sewage projects. Are they being released in Washington?

MR. EARLY: Mike Straus, in the Interior Department. They will give the projects by name and the allotments for each project. He said he would have them ready by two o'clock, so you have a good jump on them.

THE PRESIDENT: I think Poughkeepsie is in there for a partial amount.

Q Is Governor Lehman coming down this week?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know yet.

Q Do you expect that he may be down?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know because we are figuring on what will be the best time for him.

Q Lamar Hardy visited you since we last saw you. Anything you can tell us about his visit?

THE PRESIDENT: No. As you guessed, we did talk about the spy situation and it does present -- I think you can write a story on this -- it does present a national problem, without any question. The objective, really, is to separate two entirely different forms, really separate forms, of foreign governmental activity in the United States; in other words, to separate the propaganda activity from the military and naval spy activity --

MR. EARLY: (interposing) Espionage.

THE PRESIDENT: -- and if one keeps that distinction very clearly in mind, it is a very useful thing to do, and you can use that in your story so long as you do not make it appear that the Federal Government wants to set up a huge anti-propaganda organization -- nobody has considered that in any way.

But there is a problem which the Federal Government has a very definite responsibility for on the Army and Navy side of things, which goes by the generic term of "foreign spies." We are giving that very, very deep study as to what should be done to counteract the continuance of foreign government spying on our national defenses.

MR. EARLY: Another phase of that has got to do with the employment of unnaturalized foreigners by American firms manufacturing for the Army and Navy.

THE PRESIDENT: That is all part of it.

Q Will you probably ask for additional funds next session?

THE PRESIDENT: I would not put it quite that way. I do say we have got to the point of studying what the best kind of machinery is that we can set up.

One of our problems today, quite frankly, is that we have too many organizations that are not sufficiently tied together. As we all know, we have the military intelligence, G-2, the office of Naval Intelligence, and the F. B. I. and several organizations in the Treasury Department.

Q Organizations?

THE PRESIDENT: I am talking about the Government. And we have not got the proper machinery for coordinating all their work to run down foreign spying.

Q Which one of those organizations is now primarily responsible?

THE PRESIDENT: They all are, within limits.

Q The State Department has an organization too.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; awfully small.

Q Mr. President, do the reports to you show that espionage is on the increase; that is, where the Army and Navy is concerned?

THE PRESIDENT: I would not say it is on the increase today but it is a great deal larger today than it was ten years ago.

Q Mr. President, along that connection I was amazed to hear some time back that the American Rifleman printed pictures and drawings -- almost blueprints -- of our semi-automatic rifle. We are giving out much more information than any other country -- there hardly seems reason for a spy to wander around. You can get topographical maps of almost anything.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and how are you going to prevent it? What you are talking about is public property already and always will be. Topographical maps -- they are public property all over the world and you can be quite sure that if practically every nation did not already have the pictures of a new rifle, we would not have let it be printed.

Q Any connection between sabotage -- this spying -- and a series of Naval aviation disasters that occurred in rapid succession a month or so ago?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I have heard of.

Q You might do something about those Japanese tankers that follow the fleet around, Mr. President. (Laughter)

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #490,
Executive Offices of the White House,
October 11, 1938, 4.20 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I have been looking at this dirty sheet (The Evening Star). (Laughter) I have been looking at it to see the news. They are killing a lot of people out in China, aren't they? Well, that's old stuff now.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe there is any particular news. I think I should just comment and say how happy I am that the Chaco dispute has been finally terminated through the award of six nations, the delimitation of the boundary, and that has removed a serious cause of disturbance on this continent. The continent is still without any war going on.

Q Have you any appointments in the air or to be announced today?

THE PRESIDENT: No, none at all.

Q You do not mind my asking that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter)

Q What do you think of the proposal of John L. Lewis that he will quit if Bill Green also resigns?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Fred (Storm), what would you think if I commented on that?

Q (Mr. Storm) I think it would be a good story.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it might be news but I haven't got any news on that.

Q Can you give some comment as to the reaction to your Message?

THE PRESIDENT: The same thing; same idea.

Q Can you tell us anything about the suggestion that you appoint a commission to study American labor relations, the idea which Mr. Lewis endorsed this morning in his press conference?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing more than I said, Fred, at Hyde Park.

Q Do you see any comparison between the Chaco settlement and the Munich agreement? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No comment on that.

Q Have you any engagements to speak in the Congressional campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: I have got no dates yet.

Q Is there anyone pending in Brooklyn?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not pending anywhere, Fred (Essary).

Q Any news on Governor Dixon's call this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: No, just came in to say, "How do you do." It was the first time I had seen him since he was elected in the primaries.

Q Anything on the freight rate differential?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course every Governor from the lower South, when he does come in, does talk about it -- quite properly.

Q Has the farm program consideration reached the point where you can give us any idea of what is going to happen on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. It is still in the general discussion stage between Henry Wallace and myself. Has not got beyond that.

Q What kind of budget outlook did Secretary Morgenthau bring yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: Wait until the next conference.

Q Mr. President, do you think we need a special session for New England disaster relief as suggested by Senator Lodge?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think I had better answer that but I can tell you probably by tomorrow or the next day. Senator Lodge will receive from me -- it has been dictated but I think not yet signed -- a long letter marked "Personal" on that very subject, and perhaps if he were to ask me whether it is all right for him to give it out, I might say, "Yes." (Laughter)

Q I take it, Mr. President, that you are not giving it to the Press first.

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Do you think he will ask you, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: That is up to you. (Laughter)

Q Did Gifford Pinchot give you any of his political views today, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, we two discussed liberalism versus conservatism as a political philosophy with great accord.

Q You are in agreement, I take it, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: On the political philosophy.

Q Are you in accord on the forestry problem?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so.

Q Did Gifford Pinchot tell you who he is going to vote for in Pennsylvania?

THE PRESIDENT: He told me he would have a statement for you and he thought he had better not give it to me first because -- (laughter)

Q Chairman McNinch has been over at Federal Communications for a year. There still seems to be considerable friction over there. Would you care to comment on this long controversy over Civil Service status?

THE PRESIDENT: The last I knew the Chairman was still in the hospital and there is still friction.

Q Anything with respect to coordinating counter-espionage?

THE PRESIDENT: Studying it, that is all; trying to get some method of better cooperation.

Q Have you taken any steps yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Governor Poindexter, of Hawaii, was in to see you, I think last week, about the readjustment of WPA in Hawaii to civil jurisdiction. Have you come to any decision about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any particular story on that. I think he felt that there had not been enough percentage of WPA work which was going to municipalities and too much to national defense, but I am inclined to think that about the same proportion should continue to go to national defense.

Q Mr. President, National Chairman Farley said last week that he was going down the line for all Democrats nominated in the primaries. Do you agree with his statement in that respect?

THE PRESIDENT: If I were National Chairman, I would say the same thing.

Q Are you speaking now as President or as head of the Democratic Party?

THE PRESIDENT: If I were head of the Democratic Party, if I were National Chairman, I would do the same thing.

Q The Civil Service Commission was here, I think yesterday. They made no particular statement when they went out. Anything --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Only a budgetary thing.

Q Are they to go through with this work under the Executive Order to take in this 81,000?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. They are working on it all the time. There are things coming up under that Executive Order. Of course, as you run into details you run into difficulties. For example, today Admiral Wilson Brown came in to protest against putting the professors of the Naval Academy under strict Civil Service rule, which would be, of course, a very different thing from the system of hiring and firing of professors in any of the civilian universities throughout the United States. Well, that is a thing that nobody has thought of and of course at Annapolis -- and West Point the same way -- being essentially colleges, the thought for a great many years has been that the hiring and firing and pensioning and employment of civilian professors and assistant and associate professors and instructors should be kept on approximately the same basis as the average of the American colleges.

Q Mr. President, have you been advised through official channels of King George's visit to Canada next spring?

THE PRESIDENT: No, only what I read in the papers.

Q Have you done or will you do something about Biggers' recommendation that the problem of the increased employment of women should be turned over to the Monopoly Committee when it meets? You remember his letter saying that there had been this tremendous increase --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Of course the way I feel about that is that we cannot merely take the figures that were shown by the Biggers report in regard to the employment of women until we make some further analysis of the cause of it.

Just for example, during the depression and after the depression, because of a very large number of unemployed persons, a great many women who had not worked before, when their husbands were employed, have gone back to work. In other words, we have got to analyze yet and find out why there are more women in industry.

Q Women are sedentary workers --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes, and my thought is that there is a question as to whether we should make a study as to the reasons why women had gone back and of the percentage which had been in and gone out again, or what the percentage is of those who were forced, because of the lack of employment of their husbands, to go to work for the first time in their lives. We have to find that out first and whether that should be done immediately or whether we should wait and get a breakdown by the questionnaire method in the 1940 census, I don't know. That is the question to determine. The Biggers figures are very interesting but not conclusive unless you know the reason why.

Q He analyzed it to some extent in the report itself.

THE PRESIDENT: That is not enough. We are still studying as to what to do next.

Q Whether to go to the Monopoly --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Or let it remain a matter for the census.

Q Did you reach any conclusion with Admiral Brown on the Annapolis matter?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it was the first time I heard of it.

Q What do you think of the campaign in Ohio by Bulkley and Taft where they are criticizing mud-slinging issues?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know a thing about it.

Q You said that the percentage of the national budget to go to national defense would not decrease. In view of the tense world situation, is it possible it would go up instead of down?

THE PRESIDENT: That is true. One very simple illustration is that the Navy budget next year has got to go up in order to carry on construction of warships that were authorized. The starting of their construction was authorized by the last session of Congress and contracts have been let, or are about to be let, but very little money will go out of this year's appropriation. Well, for example, the two new battleships, while we will spend out of the Treasury practically nothing on that, we will let the contracts for them this year and we will be on the full spending end by next summer.

I think the Navy budget will probably go up -- I don't know -- a hundred and fifty million dollars of necessity.

Q Will the Chicago PWA subway grant be made?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you will have news of that in the course of the next forty-eight hours.

MR. YOUNG: In the absence of Mr. Wile, may I say, "Thank you"? (Laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #491,
Executive Offices of the White House,
October 14, 1938, 10.45 A.M.

Q You look snappy this morning. (Referring to the President's new suit.)

THE PRESIDENT: I am not feeling snappy. I sat up last night hearing the European side of things from Ambassador Bullitt.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I am not going up to Hyde Park until Sunday noon because I cannot get all the work straightened out until then.

Q Has the Administration changed its policy toward the prosecution of the local Medical Society?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I have not followed it at all.

Q There was some report that the Government was going to drop its case.

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard a word about it.

Q Have you heard of the progress of the work on the Gravelly Point Airport?

THE PRESIDENT: Somebody told me yesterday that they hoped to get the first dirt flying in about ten days and I said that when I got back, a week from Monday, I will drive down with the Commission and look it over. Nothing formal.

Q Did anybody tell you it will take two years instead of one?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Your driving down there will inaugurate the work?

THE PRESIDENT: No speech or anything like that.

Q They wanted you to run a steam shovel.

THE PRESIDENT: No, just drive around.

Q At the last Conference you told us you might have something to say on the budget at this one. Any comment you can make?

THE PRESIDENT: The only comment is that I cannot make any comment for the reason that new developments in national defense require such a complete restudy of American national defense that it will defer, necessarily, any budget comments for some time.

Q Mr. Baruch, when he left yesterday, said that it was his opinion that the Army was lacking in modern equipment. He said that there is definitely not a first-class organization because of lack of what he termed, "modern arms." Do you propose, Mr. President, to ask for additional funds to supply the Army with --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) In the first place, I did not read Mr. Baruch's statement, except the headline, so I cannot comment on that, but there are a good many people and a good many studies -- not just Mr. Baruch but a good many others -- who are very carefully checking up on certain new elements that have gradually been coming in for the past three or four years, elements that relate, just for example, to the problem of mass production, which we have never yet adequately considered. They are new things and therefore they require a good deal of study.

Q That mass production, does that include airplanes?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and other things, too.

Q Have you taken any definite steps toward standardization of certain weapons and plane manufactures also with the idea of preparing for mass production? I understand there are several branches where standardization is needed, or some people studying it think it is needed, to set up mass production.

THE PRESIDENT: You have answered your own question. The words, "mass production" necessarily mean "standardization." You cannot have mass production unless you have standardization.

Q Has your product reached a point of development where you feel you can standardize?

THE PRESIDENT: Other nations are doing it.

Q Is any centralized or interdepartmental body studying this?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I am doing it.

Q Is that study being conducted with civilian advice?

THE PRESIDENT: Every known kind.

Q Is it the intent to create an organization similar to the wartime War Industries Board?

THE PRESIDENT: No, this has nothing to do with machinery for running it. It is a question of national defense.

Q Is it contemplated to materially increase the size of the Army?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot give you anything on that because then you get down to a kind of partial report. We are then only taking up one small phase. If you ask me, "Are you going to have two more submarines?" or, "Are you going to give up the cavalry?" or, "Are you doing one thing or the other?" it becomes a very difficult matter because it takes away the whole rounded picture. What I want to do is to give to the country a complete picture, when we are ready, rather than in comparatively minor detail.

For instance, talking off the record, talking about $150,000,000. for two new battleships, of course you people had to write something. Of course that was not a new story, really, because the authorizations had been made last year. Obviously they had to go in. But I don't want to confuse the public by talking about items of that kind. I am thinking in terms of national defense.

Q Does the power study enter into it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Do you contemplate creating a unified Department of Defense?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a pure detail of later administration. What I am doing now is studying a plan to meet needs under rather new world conditions.

Q When will the plans be ready? Can you tell us the time?

THE PRESIDENT: By the third of January.

Q Can you throw any light on the reason which led to this decision to reorganize the whole national defense picture?

THE PRESIDENT: I should say, offhand, that it started about a year ago because of information that was coming in at that time. It has been in progress for about a year and it has, in a sense, been forced to a head by events, developments and information received within the past month.

Q Will you say, are you referring to technical or political matters?

THE PRESIDENT: Defense matters, not political.

Q I mean information that is coming in, is it technical?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, technical.

Q Any comment on the statement made yesterday by Groesbeck, of the Electric Bond and Share, in which he pledged cooperation to the Holding Company Act?

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THE PRESIDENT: I asked some information on it yesterday afternoon, supposing that the question would be asked. It is fairly long and I will try to touch the high spots.

I am, of course, very glad to read of the statement made by Mr. Groesbeck at his stockholders' meeting, I think it was. In trying to evaluate it, I think we can say that the announcement illustrates exactly what I meant in the past when I urged cooperation between business and government in concrete and not in general terms; in other words, not merely lip service but getting down to brass tacks.

Secondly, it ought to be clear that the term, "death sentence," which was invented, not by the Government or by the Press but by the utility propagandists, three years and a half ago -- that is a matter of record -- that that term brought more harm than good to the utilities, and we are now going to have the opportunity to prove what we have always contended -- go back and read the debates in the hearings -- that that Section 11 in the Utility Act was not a death sentence but should properly have been called a "health sentence."

Q Did you call it a "life sentence"?

THE PRESIDENT: Health sentence. That, apparently, is being recognized by the owners of public utility securities. They are beginning to think that their securities are worth more money now that certain officers of the utilities have given up the old term.

Next, Mr. Groesbeck, being a good business man, the prospect is that private business will be helped by his action in sitting down with a business-minded commission to work things out in a businesslike way, and we hope that other companies will come in. His views will be reflected in the views and statements of other people in similar positions. A number of companies, of course, are in and cooperating, such as the American Water Works and Electric Company and the Columbia Gas and Electric Company.

Finally, we all wish that this delay might have been avoided and that the utility companies might have cooperated without the many legal steps they took that preceded the Supreme Court's decision upholding the constitutionality of the legislative provisions but, on the other hand, this being a democratic country, where democratic processes work, it is a perfectly normal thing to expect that kind of a delay and it is all right.

Q Mr. President, do you feel it essential to seek extension of your powers over the dollar after next June thirtieth?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not the faintest idea. I had not thought of it until I read it in this morning's paper. It comes up this time every year, does it not? It is one of the hardy annuals. (Laughter)

Q Do you care to discuss the situation in the Communications Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: No. The Communications Commission, I take it, is running their own job.

Q Did you happen to read the editorial on Mr. Dubinsky's statement urging you to mediate the C. I. O. and A. F. of L. dispute or to call a meeting of your own?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Has anybody suggested that to you?

THE PRESIDENT: Consider the fact that they have been called into my office.

Q I mean together?

THE PRESIDENT: They have even been in together.

Q No new conference plan?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Would you care to make any comment on the disappearance of the post-Hoover recession? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I think this action of the Electric Bond and Share is along the line of what that necessary and very proper temporary White House spokesman at Hyde Park mentioned two weeks ago. Of course, as you at Hyde Park knew, there was one reason for using that on that particular occasion, the reason being that a comparison was made of certain things that happened in foreign nations. We won't have any more, of course, unless there is some similar reason why there cannot be attribution to the President.

Q Are you going to make a speech in New York for the ticket?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know, Fred (Storm). The only news -- I am being very expansive today -- is that the Governor (Lehman) is coming up to see me next week -- I do not know the date yet because it depends a little on his plans -- and when he comes up we will talk about the campaign as a whole in the state in which I vote.

Q (Mr. Storm) And where the O'Connell boys vote me. (Laughter)

Q Can you make any comment on the Palestine situation?

THE PRESIDENT: No. The Secretary of State has a statement which I understand is going to be given out very shortly.

Q Have you received a request from Senator Donahey to do something about the old age pension situation in Ohio?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #492,
In the President's Study at Hyde Park,
October 18, 1938, 12.00 M.

Q Good morning, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: This is not a big crowd so it is all right. Colonel and Mrs. Murray over here in the corner. We have all had the best time yesterday that ever happened because when the good people landed on the CAMERONIA and joined us on the train, the first stories that went out were that Mr. Arthur Murray, famous dancing teacher, and his third wife were coming up to spend the day at Hyde Park. That was good. And the next morning Colonel Murray and Lady Murray were staying here -- that was yesterday morning's papers. And yesterday afternoon's papers said that "Sir Arthur Murray, railway magnate, and Lady Murray." So they have come to the conclusion that if they are not made Marquis and Marchioness before they leave, they will be quite hurt.

Q We can do that today, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

Q That is known as an American build-up, Mr. President. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news at all. Governor Horner, I believe, is outside. Governor Lehman is coming to lunch and Secretary Morgenthau is coming.

Q I had a query last night. The office wanted to know whether you had any ancestors in New Amsterdam in 1647.

THE PRESIDENT: Fred (Storm), it is a touchy subject. They did not start keeping passenger lists of immigrants until 1648, you see, and because their names were not on the passenger lists -- they started in 1648 -- therefore they must have come over before that, but what the ship was and what the year was we do not know. We think there is a record. The original gentleman was called Kleine Claes, which means little class, and there is a mention of a little claes way back in 1640, so he may have come over then, but all we know definitely is that they were here before 1648. And then there appear various piecemeal records starting in '48 and '49. We know that they were surely here after that.

Q What did you think of that play the other day?

THE PRESIDENT: I thought it was grand. You know, I have never seen any shows just like that before.

Q Walter Houston did a swell job.

THE PRESIDENT: He came around after supper at the White House and was rather interesting. I thought he was going to hurt his knee terribly. He told me that he had thought so at first but he soon got used to it. He thought he would not be able to keep his balance but he soon got that, too.

I don't think there is any news.

Q Secretary Morgenthau is to be here. Is that purely social, or budgetary?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose it will be budgetary from 5.30 to 6.30 and after that it will be social.

Q Anything new on the national defense needs' study?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing. They are proceeding very well.

Q Some of the newspaper stories have intimated that it will be tied up with recovery. Can you tell us anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It is just in the preliminary stage.

Q Would it run into enough money to really have any influence on recovery?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not the faintest idea. In other words, anything I can say or you would say would be pure, unadulterated guesswork. I don't know.

Q Does your phrase about guesswork apply to the story carried last night about 4,120 airplanes?

THE PRESIDENT: That is absolutely guesswork. I haven't the faintest idea. I could not write an intelligent story on it at the present time.

Q Secretary Wallace has given us this new farm plan. Anything you can say about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I don't think I can talk about it intelligently enough to trust myself. He was here on other things.

Q Did you hear Winston Churchill's broadcast or radio speech in which he spoke about the union of English speaking persons?

THE PRESIDENT: No, only read the headlines.

Q We understand Mr. Hoover was on the air last night.

THE PRESIDENT: So McDuffie said.

MR. McINTYRE: That is off the record.

THE PRESIDENT: Mac says that has got to be off the record. And furthermore, he turned it off after five minutes. That is off the record, too. (Laughter)

Q Have you heard anything about Secretary Ickes' health -- reports that he has been sick?

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Ickes? It was true that he felt the altitude crossing the Divide and he is all right again.

MR. McINTYRE: Fred (Storm) suggested that he had been in rarefied atmosphere now for several months. (Laughter)

Q I understand artists are being invited to submit some mural designs for the Poughkeepsie Post Office, one of a century ago and one comparatively recently. Was that your idea?

THE PRESIDENT: I think they are just about done.

Q No, these are additional, one for each end of the hall. The artists have been invited to take part in the competition and the price they will get will be $2100. each. It is to be submitted by April 1, 1939.

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know except that the original plan called for panels that would bring things down to date. I suppose it is part of the original plan which Miss Reynolds and I worked up between us.

Q Is there anything you can tell us about Secretary Perkins' proposal for a thirteen-member mediation commission to settle labor disputes?

THE PRESIDENT: No; only what she said, that is all.

Q Is anyone coming with Governor Lehman, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I told him to bring anybody he wanted to.

Q What brings him up here?

THE PRESIDENT: To talk about the campaign.

Q The Illinois campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, you mean Governor Horner. He is just east and I have not seen him for some time.

Q I was wondering.

THE PRESIDENT: I had not seen him since spring and I asked him to drop up here. No particular discussion.

Q Have you dispatched an invitation to King George in connection --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I can only talk to you off the record. It is very difficult. When the head of a nation visits another nation, you do not have a special engraved invitation sent to him. It is not done that way. That is all I can tell you.

Q How is it done, Mr. President? (Laughter) Off the record.

THE PRESIDENT: No, not even off the record.

Q I believe they will be in Washington, nevertheless, won't they?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope so.

Q Have you heard anything lately that leads you to believe that relief expenditures can be held to the balance on hand?

THE PRESIDENT: We have just the preliminary studies of that. After all, there are two things, as you all know from previous years. First is the estimate of relief that is made up on the third of January for the balance of the year. That has been the custom, because you cannot tell much beyond the first of July. And then, later on in the session, the way we have done it before, we give them an estimate of needs on relief for the coming fiscal year, beginning the first of July.

Q Aubrey Williams was telling us at the White House that you had instructed him, if possible, to hold expenditures down to the sixty millions now available.

THE PRESIDENT: As I remember it, the bill gave us, definitely, the money up to the first of February and, in addition to that,

$175,000,000. to be used as an emergency fund, if necessary. Isn't that right, Harry?

MR. HOPKINS: No, it was the first of March. They appropriated money for eight months and then, if the emergency existed, we could spend it prior to the eight months.

THE PRESIDENT: That is it.

Q What was the total?

MR. HOPKINS: A billion and a half.

Q Have you scheduled any new meetings of the trustees of the school district?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard anything about what happened since we got here. I guess they are meeting all the time.

MR. McINTYRE: Do you think Governor Lehman could stop by and see the boys after --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I will try to get him to.

Q We would appreciate it very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Unless he is going on to Albany.

MR. McINTYRE: He will probably want to play up to his own boys.

THE PRESIDENT: Do you suppose he will have a crowd with him?

Q I imagine so.

THE PRESIDENT: You don't know whether he is going to Albany? If so, he won't want to go back to Poughkeepsie.

Q Could we come up here and meet him?

THE PRESIDENT: It would be possible to have a double conference, but what would you do? You would have what they call "a conflict of authority." There might be some awful crossing of wires, with your stories and the fellow that is covering him.

Q We could hang it on White House circles.

THE PRESIDENT: That is always good. "Sources close to the Administration." It is all right.

Q Are you acting in this old age pension fight out in Ohio, trying to settle it?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know what has happened lately.

Q I had a message from Columbus, which said that State Auditor Ferguson was forwarding data for your consideration.

MR. McINTYRE: That has not arrived yet, Fred (Storm).

THE PRESIDENT: I have not heard a thing for -- I don't know what -- ten days.

Q The AP has queried us from Albany on this supposed flood control conference here with Mac (Mr. McIntyre) this morning at eleven?

MR. McINTYRE: I have. I am going to receive a petition for you this morning.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #493,
In the President's Study at Hyde Park,
October 21, 1938, 10.45 A.M.

Q Good morning, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning, Frederic (Storm). How is the boy? What did you do yesterday with all the rain going on? What kind of golf did you play?

Q Indoor golf.

MR. McINTYRE: The game they call galloping golf.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that is a very expensive game.

Q (Mr. Belair) Yes, sir; it is.

THE PRESIDENT: Now, let us see what I have got. I have several things here, if you are short of stories.

Q We certainly are, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I can give you lots of stuff.

No. 1: I have always checked up on the tourist travel in the National Parks just the way, when I was Governor, I used to check up every year on the tourist travel in the Adirondack Park and the Catskill Park and the various State Parks as being somewhat of an indication of the condition of the country.

Here is a memorandum that I got from Slattery, which I will give Mac (Mr. McIntyre) to show to you. It has got the figures in it but it is not to be used in a statement. It was made out in the form of a statement by me because there is a whole lot of stuff here that you need not use. (Reading)

> "As I have repeatedly emphasized, it is my desire, and the purpose of this Administration, to raise the American standard of living so that all

> of the people may enjoy better economic security and good living. Public use of the national parks, which are created for the benefit and enjoyment of the people, shows how well we have succeeded."

You can put that in your own language. (Reading)

> "In 1933, administrative responsibility for many of the historical parks and national monuments was scattered among several departments of the Federal Government. For economy and the maintenance of consistent standards of public service, I consolidated that responsibility in the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.
>
> "In 1934, the first year that travel statistics were recorded for the consolidated national park and monument system, 6,337,206 people visited those reservations. In 1935, the travel figure climbed to 7,676,490; in 1936, it increased to 11,989,793; in 1937, it mounted to 15,133,432; and in 1938, 16,233,688 people visited the areas in the national park and monument system."

In other words, in four years the number of people who are visiting National Parks and Monuments has increased more than two and a half times, which is a very interesting thing.

(The balance of the statement, which the President did not read to the Press, is as follows:

> "These travel figures, in other words, show that more than two and a half times as many people in the United States had the opportunity to visit national parks and monuments in 1938 than in 1934. As a gauge of how we have climbed out of depression, I think that is convincing evidence.
>
> "The greatest increase in park travel was made in the number of people who visited the historical parks and monuments. There is a growing interest in our American traditions, accomplishments, and cultural heritage. Travel helps to build national unity.
>
> "I am proud of our national parks, for they are a cultural achievement. They are a practical recognition of the educational and inspirational value of certain resources, as contrasted with the commercial exploitation of those resources.

> "Parks are an implement of conservation. They conserve breathing spaces. They conserve archeologic, historic, and scientific masterpieces. They conserve forests, streams, and wildlife.
>
> "Parks are also utilitarian. They provide for the use and enjoyment of outstanding resources. Whether that use is group play or individual contemplation of nature's beauty, it is use of national resources for human betterment, and with sustained economic returns.")

It is a beautiful statement. You can take all kinds of beautiful things out of it as long as you do not take it as my statement.

Q This does not include the National Forests?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Of course, in the National Forests they have not got the same kind of a checkup on the numbers as they have in the National Parks and Monuments, because so many people go into the National Forests without going over a road.

Q In line with these statistics as reflecting the condition of the country, have you any comment to make upon the widespread back-to-work movement in the automobile industry?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course the only comment is that it is a very delightful fact.

Q And that, of course, will help in holding down WPA spending?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Then, here is another thing: I have been digging these things up. Here is another thing I have had for about a week or ten days and I cannot give you very much in the way of details on it because I have not got them, but it is the kind of a thing that, when you get back to Washington, if you want to write a special story, it is good.

Back in 1937, the Congress at the suggestion of myself and the Attorney General -- this was part of the Court objective -- passed a bill setting up -- I don't know what it was called -- a board, commission or group, or whatever it was, of Federal Judges to reorganize and reform Federal Court practice and procedure. Judge Kannee will know about this. Up to that time there were a great many complaints about Federal Court practice. It was slow, it was not uniform, it had a great many excrescences -- there is another word for it, but that is what it was. It had grown up over a great many years. It required speeding up for better justice and especially for quicker justice. This committee, I think that is what it was called, of Federal Judges met and, in accordance with the terms of the Act, made a report last spring, which I sent to the Congress. That report laid down a whole new series of simplification and standardization rules and the Act provided that the Congress would have the right to veto these rules before it adjourned, but that if they did not veto the rules before they adjourned, they would go into effect on the first of October. They did not take any action on the rules, one way or the other, and therefore they went into effect on the first day of October.

The result is one of the most important steps that we have taken for the reform of Federal judicial procedure.

And it is rather interesting as a sidelight on methods of Government, taking it in a broad way. These rules were -- put it this way: If the Congress had attempted to formulate rules themselves, which they had a perfect right to do, for practical, present things, what would have happened? In all human probability, nothing would have happened. It was a more or less technical problem. It had been discussed for twenty years and nothing had happened. Therefore, the Congress very wisely said, "We haven't got the time, in a body consisting of the House and Senate, to go into the details of Court rules; therefore we will delegate the legislative function to set up rules to a committee of experts composed of Judges and assisted by the Department of Justice. And we will provide that what they bring in, in the form of rules, will automatically go into effect, provided the Congress itself does not veto them."

The result is that we have taken one of the most important steps we have ever taken.

Now, I do not have to point out to you the analogy between that procedure and a good many other problems of Government, such as reorganization and a good many other problems of actual administration. Rules of a Court are essentially an administrative problem and these new rules improve the administration. They are laid down by the people who run the Courts, the Judges and the Department of Justice, and the Congress gave to itself the right to veto them.

MR. McINTYRE: Is there any precedent for that action that you know of?

THE PRESIDENT: That we do not know, but it is an amazingly interesting accomplishment in a very sound way for getting more or less technical problems solved. It is a very interesting thing. Most people in this country do not know about it at all because it has had just a stick or two. But all the lawyers who practised in the Federal Courts are quite thrilled by what has been accomplished.

Q For the purposes of our stories, are not those rather unimportant in themselves, as far as our story is concerned?

THE PRESIDENT: No, they are tremendously important from the point of view of the lawyer. They are very drastic. It is the most drastic thing that has ever happened in the practice and procedure before the Federal Courts. I cannot go into the details because I know only about half a dozen of the important things that have been done.

Q Stories have been printed on it.

THE PRESIDENT: You will probably find it in the files but it is the kind of thing that is not known to the general public at all.

Q Mr. President, naturally you are cheered over the method by which this was accomplished?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, it is a practical way of accomplishing Administrative reforms.

Q Have you anything else in mind that you think might be carried out along this line, such as reorganization?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. After all, that is the principle. It is the principle and the objective of what I have said all along about reorganization. In other words, give to the people responsible for administration in the Executive Branch of the Government, just as they did to people in the Judicial Branch of the Government, the right to bring in new rules, new plans, to the Congress and give to Congress the right to veto that plan within a given time.

Exactly the same thing.

Then I have got one other thing here: I have had reports from Administrator Andrews, of the Wage-Hour Administration, that are very gratifying in that there is a general disposition to comply with the law being shown by employers throughout the country.

The response has been such that the Administrator has some hope that many employers engaged in intrastate commerce, as well as in interstate commerce, may voluntarily accept the standards that are being set up for interstate commerce.

MR. McINTYRE: Couldn't they use that as a direct statement, just as you gave it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, it is all right.

Q Mr. Andrews --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes. In other words, the Federal Government has the constitutional right only to regulate wages and hours in interstate commerce but it has been the thought behind the exercise of that right that local industries, operating only in commerce within a given state, would voluntarily adopt the standards of the other people. And it seems to be working out.

Put it down, John (O'Brien); it is a good story. Send it in.

Q (Mr. O'Brien) I got that.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe they will use it but it is a good story.

Q Could you give us a good story now by commenting on what Ambassador Kennedy said about getting along with dictators?

THE PRESIDENT: I read Dorothy Thompson's headline this morning. I did not read the story. That is the answer. How did she interpret it?

Q I did not read her; I had not read her. I would rather read his speech; it is quite a speech.

THE PRESIDENT: Did you get a query following Dorothy Thompson's interpretation?

Q No.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that was a columnist.

Q Is there anything you can tell us about your conversation with Mr. Bullitt?

THE PRESIDENT: No; he has been up here having a holiday. We have had no conversation.

Q Nothing on war debts?

THE PRESIDENT: No, certainly not. I am sorry to spoil that one, too. (Laughter)

Q The picnic lunch was right? We had that right?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, you had that right. That was all right.

Q Colonel Lindbergh was decorated by the German Government for outstanding services, as one who deserved well from the Reich. It has been pointed out that it was his survey on aviation that helped them. I wonder if Colonel Lindbergh has reported the results of his investigation to his own nation?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know.

MR. McINTYRE: He was decorated there but he would probably be crowned if he went to Russia. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I can only tell you off the record about a thing like that, after all. Charlie Lindbergh is an awfully good fellow. They ask him all sorts of questions. He goes to a luncheon and talks about what he has seen and eventually it gets into the papers. As a matter of fact, practically every Government in the world had any story that he brought out of any country weeks and perhaps months before he got into print. That is the real fact. There was nothing new to our Government in the story. It was merely new to the public. It was good news. We had it weeks before and of course our information does not necessarily check up with his but it is substantially the same.

Q I thought that perhaps, as a Reserve Officer, he might have felt that it was his duty to send it in?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know.

MR. McINTYRE: How can he get that decoration?

Q We checked up on it. A special Act of Congress gives him authority.

THE PRESIDENT: He would have to go back to Congress.

Q He got a blanket exemption.

THE PRESIDENT: I did not know it had ever been done.

Q It must have been showered down on him.

Q They wait until those things pile up and then they put it through in an omnibus measure.

THE PRESIDENT: We have an omnibus measure every year and it goes through, naming people by name who have been offered decorations. Jim got one and Paw Watson.

Q George Fox --

Q (interposing) There is an interesting story in the box on page one of the Times. In the Federal Building in Newark they have just ripped up the Seal of the United States on the floor there, with no published reason, but it followed protests from a group there saying that it was desecration of the Great Seal itself. That was something new to me. I did not know that the seal itself is ever placed --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Now, that goes back to T. R. when McKim, Meade and White, the architects who re-did the White House -- what was it? 1904, 1903 or 1904 -- when they completely redecorated it, they put, I think it was the Presidential Seal --

Q (interposing) That is what it is in the White House.

THE PRESIDENT: It is on the floor of the main hall as you come into the door. I think if you will check back you will find that there was a lot of discussion about it and it was defended and criticized and finally T. R. said, "A seal is not a flag. You put a seal on a document and you stick it away on a library shelf." I think his ruling was that not being a flag it was perfectly proper to leave the Presidential Seal in the floor of the hall of the White House.

MR. McINTYRE: As a matter of fact, it is very interesting to know the number of people who do not like it. You see people who walk around it repeatedly.

Q There is a policeman there who does his best to keep visitors off. He shunts them away but they do not even notice the seal.

THE PRESIDENT: Maybe that was to keep the gold from being nicked off.

Q Mr. President, do you care --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) It is not a very vital problem.

Q It is interesting.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, very interesting. That was T. R.'s ruling at that time.

Q Mr. President, do you care to comment on the virtual wholesale indictment in New Mexico of sisters, nephews and cousins of Senator [Chavez ?] Shipstead? There is quite a large group.

THE PRESIDENT: No. Of course, whether it be New Mexico or Dutchess County or Brooklyn or Syracuse, get them all in. (Laughter)

Q Buffalo, too; they have one up there.

THE PRESIDENT: Buffalo, too. One is apt in local government, state government and Federal Government always to find some indictable people, and it is the duty of Government to go after them and indict them, try them, where the facts warrant. Rather a nice connotation there, off the record, in view of the State Campaign and what Brother Dewey is saying, with Dutchess County, Syracuse, Mayor Marvin, you read about him this morning -- I wonder what Dewey's answer is to that.

Of course there are crooks whether the Government is Democratic or Republican, and they ought to be weeded out as soon as you run up against them.

Q Do you know what brings Mayor LaGuardia up here?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not, frankly. I think he is going to talk about projects in New York City.

MR. McINTYRE: He will probably offer to see the boys.

THE PRESIDENT: He will probably talk politics. I haven't the faintest idea yet. He has been due to see me for three or four weeks and it is the first chance. I doubt if it is anything specific.

Q Are you making much progress in your study of the national defense problem?

THE PRESIDENT: It is coming along all right.

Q I don't suppose there is anything you can say yet about the budget?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the only thing I can say about the budget is that next Monday or Tuesday, when I get back, I begin taking up the departmental budgets with Bell and I think he has two of them ready for me. I don't know which ones they are. I told him to bring a blue pencil with him. (Laughter)

Q When do you plan to return, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Either Sunday night or Monday night, I do not know which yet.

Q Mr. President, in view of the fact that Dutchess County is your home, do you want to extend your remarks about it?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that covers it awfully well, don't you? And by the way -- no, I won't tell you now; I may use it.

Q Tell us and we won't use it.

THE PRESIDENT: All right; don't you use it but I may. Did you see that perfectly joyous line in the slip that was made in the Eagle News about two weeks ago?

Q About taking it up with the Republican Caucus?

THE PRESIDENT: It was perfectly joyous. It is grand and the people of the State will love it if I use it. They are seeking twenty little relief organizations in this county, just the same way they have twenty little highway departments in this county. Twenty little highway departments -- just think of it! Isn't it an absurdity?

Q They have got a lot of Deputy Sheriffs, too.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q On this Federal reorganization matter, you spoke of early: What is the status? How much remains to be accomplished on it? Can you explain that briefly? It seems to me several bills were passed last session.

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q I thought some of them were passed piecemeal?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. The only bill that was passed was the Post Office Civil Service Bill. That related to it in a sort of an aside.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Why don't you stage a real competition between Mac (Mr. McIntyre) and Hack (Miss Hackmeister)?

MR. McINTYRE: Hack can beat me. When that old Dutch girl starts to hitting them -- (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, I forgot to ask you: Mr. Straus is coming up to luncheon today. Anything special you are going to take up? Anything on Pittsburgh housing?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not that I know of. He is just coming up to report how much he has left in the way of projects.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #494,
Executive Offices of the White House,
October 25, 1938, 4.05 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: The Hyde Park boys had an extremely good vacation.

Q So we saw by the papers.

THE PRESIDENT: It improved their golf a little.

Q Is that a fancy map or something that you have there?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, that is a crossing the line (Equator) diploma. Fred (Storm) has two or three of them.

Q (Mr. Storm) I don't want to forget any either, Mr. President, when I cross again.

THE PRESIDENT: I have done three days' work in one already.

Q It looks like you did have a full day.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q How is the house coming along?

THE PRESIDENT: Fine; plastered on the inside --

Q (interposing) Will you get in this winter?

THE PRESIDENT: -- I mean the house, not Fred (Storm). (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Storm) I am strictly on beer -- in Hyde Park.

Q Pictures of it look fine, very pretty.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead and shoot.

Q Have you heard anything from your Fact Finding Board on the railroad wage problem?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet.

Q Will that report be released from here or by the Board?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I don't know what the procedure is.

MR. EARLY: We are giving it out.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve says we are giving it out.

Q Mr. President, are you concerned with the testimony that has been given before the Dies Committee, particularly in the case of Governor Murphy of Michigan? Testimony last week charged him with treasonable activities in the settlement of the sitdown strikes in Michigan two years ago. Because he didn't call out the National Guard they claimed the lives of thousands of persons were endangered.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I certainly am concerned with that kind of testimony. I think I would like to say something about it, but I think it probably would be better if I wrote something out instead of trying to talk extemporaneously because my language might not be polite enough so, if you will give me a chance, as soon as the conference is over I will get somebody in and dictate something for you. It is a pretty important thing and I think it can be done that way.

Q Can you say something about similar testimony about Louis Bloch, one of your recent appointees to the Maritime Labor Board?

THE PRESIDENT: How much space am I guaranteed in the papers tomorrow? (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Storm) All you want, Mr. President.

Q I think we can guarantee to carry the text. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I guess I had better stick to one thing at a time at this time.

Q Can you tell us anything about these recent closings, when the wage hour law went into effect, of a lot of small low wage firms? They announced that they were going to close instead of complying with the Act. Did you talk to Andrews about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and I think we are both in entire accord that it is unfortunate that this should come up just two weeks before an election because, judging by any important social legislation that has gone on the statute books in the past, some people are immediately affected but it is by no means certain or clear that they are permanently adversely affected. In other words, a national law of this kind works itself out and it would be an exceedingly good thing if even the most reactionary newspaper owners -- owners, I said -- and politicians were to try, as a matter of patriotic duty, to help make a statute work. Lord knows, we did not have any help from that type of American in getting the statute passed. It is the attitude that says, "Oh, yes, I am in favor of decent wages but I don't like this suggestion, this way of carrying it out." And then you say to them, "Do you like such and such a plan?" and they say, "Oh, no, no, that is terrible." And then you make a third suggestion and they say, "Oh, no, no, that is awful." And then they either write or speak in favor of good wages.

And then, you say to them, "Well, what would you suggest? What is your suggestion?" And then they say, "Why, that is not my business."

Now, that is very much the American way of doing things and that is why it makes any improvement in the economic status or the social conditions of this country a long tedious process.

On this particular thing, the Wages and Hours Bill, it seems to me that the practical thing would be for the particular employers and for the Government really, honestly, to sit down and try to make it work, to see if they cannot (make it work). After all, the pecan industry is not going to quit. They are not going to quit growing pecans or picking pecans or distributing pecans. Let us take that as an illustration. It is not going to quit. What we ought to do is sit down and try to make it work, the quicker the better. It is a question of point of view, of working with a definite effort to try to make this law work. I think that covers it pretty well.

Q Getting back to the Michigan situation, Senator Brown was quoted by the AP as saying that you had given him a definite pledge that the Mackinaw Bridge would definitely be built.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe he said that.

Q He was quoted.

THE PRESIDENT: I had better find out what he really said.

Q Can I have a statement from you as to the status?

THE PRESIDENT: The status is very simple. Here you have one state that is split in two by a strait between two great lakes and the state, for a great many years, has needed better communication than a mere ferry. A bridge is -- well, they have even talked about a tunnel but a bridge seems to be the most practical. The bridge is a definite need of the State of Michigan, and, I think, a definite need for the United States. Therefore, what I told Senator Brown and what Senator Brown probably said was that I was going to use every effort in the next Congress to get a bridge built with Federal assistance -- that does not mean the whole cost on the Federal Government, not by a jugful, but Federal assistance, because it is a national problem besides being a very definite state problem.

Q What Congressional action will be needed?

THE PRESIDENT: The appropriation of money.

Q Sir, have you decided when you will go down to Gravelly Point to start the Airport?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not; what is a good date?

Q The movie men are boosting for Thursday or Friday.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I will try to go down before I go back to Hyde Park -- next Thursday.

Q In your talk with Edison, Johnson and Williams, did you discuss the establishment of a national War Department Training School for mechanics in connection with the air program?

THE PRESIDENT: If you will put the question on a different footing, I will answer it. In other words, it is as I said ten days ago: If you can avoid for the present a factual story about who is going to do this, that or the other thing in a national defense program, it will be very much to the good for national defense. What we did talk about was the need of training a very large additional number of aviation mechanics. There is a great shortage in this country for any large aviation program and that is a matter -- the training of such mechanics -- is a matter that is being studied at the present time. We don't know yet who will do it or how it will be done and that is why I cannot be factual honestly in talking about who will do it or how it will be done. I am talking now about the need and we are discussing a great many different ways of accomplishing the objective.

Q How does the A. F. of L. feel about it?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Are they making any protests?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a matter that will, I suppose, be under study. We are looking more at the total needs than anything else. We haven't got to that yet.

Q Are you contemplating any coast defense or bases?

THE PRESIDENT: It is the same story -- the same answer. You cannot talk about the details yet. We are talking about the objectives.

Q There seems to be quite a bit of discussion at the moment of the desirability of giving the CCC military training in connection with the expansion of any national defense program. Are you in favor of that?

THE PRESIDENT: That has not as yet been discussed.

Q There is some editorial discussion?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Referring to the air bases, may we assume from your answers that they are under consideration?

THE PRESIDENT: No, you had better not assume that. It is like some columnist that attempted in one paragraph to define what a naval base was. I was a little amused, because I could not describe the many types of naval bases in twenty pages.

Q Still on national defense, has there been any change in the administrative policy toward lighter-than-air craft?

THE PRESIDENT: That is still under study. The question at the present time -- no reason why you should not know this -- the bill provides, as you know, for the expenditure -- I think it is at the discretion of the President -- of not to exceed three million dollars for a rigid lighter-than-air ship. That means that there are three courses of action possible. One is not to build one, the other is to build one up to the limit of three million dollars, which is about six or seven million cubic feet, and the third alternative is to build a different type of ship, a smaller type, for a somewhat different purpose, in other words, coast patrol purposes, and we have not decided which of the three courses we are going to take.

Q I still don't understand quite whether you have the question of coast air bases under discussion or under study?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, strictly speaking, no, because we are studying a much larger problem. We are studying national defense. I mean, it is a little like asking me whether we are going to start new training camps. I haven't the faintest idea. We are talking about the larger needs of national defense and that is why, if you ask me whether we are going to build a lighthouse here or put a new Coast Artillery fort there, the answer is, "No," because I haven't got down to the details.

Q Have you come to any general idea as to the cost of this program?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no.

Q That has not come into it yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Not in any shape, manner or form. I have no idea.

Q Did you and the British Ambassador today discuss the question of Palestine?

THE PRESIDENT: Of what?

Q Of Palestine?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Can you tell us more about it?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter)

Q We are wondering whether he brought in a reply to your recent letter to Prime Minister Chamberlain?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Did you discuss with him, Mr. President, the forthcoming visit of the King and Queen of Great Britain?

THE PRESIDENT: It was touched on.

Q Can you tell us anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q How about the trade agreement with Great Britain?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any particular news on that. That is being talked about and has been for some time.

Q Is there any answer from the British Government?

THE PRESIDENT: I believe so but I have not seen it yet. It is on its way over or is being received.

Q Have you discussed the international monetary situation?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Did you discuss it with Secretary Morgenthau this afternoon?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Can you tell us what the general nature of the British answer is?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, as I say, I have not seen it. I suppose it is a continuation of negotiations.

Q This, I suppose, is an "if" question. If the King and Queen come, will you have him over for a Press Conference so that we can see him? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Now, look, if any question like that ever gets out of this room, even in the form of a question, they won't come. Now, you see what you are doing? (Laughter)

Q I thought it was to be part of their American experience.

THE PRESIDENT: If you want them to come over, for Heaven's sake don't ask questions like that.

Q Do you intend to make any speeches in the Pennsylvania political campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: I have already answered that about a week ago.

Q Aside from speeches, there is a report today that you might take some steps to aid the Democratic ticket. I don't know what the nature of the steps would be.

THE PRESIDENT: That is a new one on me.

Q Mr. President, aside from national defense, can you tell us how the budget is shaping up?

THE PRESIDENT: I am taking up -- I think it is tomorrow -- I am having the first budget conference and I think it is on two departments but I don't know which two. I think they will proceed through until I go down to Warm Springs around the twenty-second of November and will include, of course, all the regular departments and all the agencies of the Government in the regular normal running of the Government.

<Q Do you plan any speeches in Michigan?

THE PRESIDENT: I have already answered that two minutes ago.

Q That was Pennsylvania; I asked in Michigan?

THE PRESIDENT: The same answer applies. In other words, in order to make it quite clear, I think it was ten days or two weeks ago that I said I was making the one speech and one speech only and that was over the air on the fourth of November at Hyde Park. That ought to cover any questions on any other states.

Q I have got one after that, Mr. President: Are you going to stop in Chattanooga on your way down to Warm Springs?

THE PRESIDENT: On the way down or the way back. I think we did promise that, did we not, Mac?

MR. McINTYRE: It is not definite.

THE PRESIDENT: Mac says it is not definite so I cannot promise it.

Q Mr. President, will you comment on Mr. Dewey's charge in New York that Democratic governors have been mere front men for politicians in New York State? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Ask the Republican organization in Dutchess County. (Laughter)

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #495,
Executive Offices of the White House,
October 28, 1938, 10.55 A.M.

Q Good morning, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.

Q What is that, Mr. President, something new? (Pointing to a small bronze object on the President's desk, which had the appearance of an incense burner.)

THE PRESIDENT: That is 2000 years old -- 2100 years old. It came out of the ruins of Babylon.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: The Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, John W. Hanes, to be appointed Under Secretary of the Treasury today.

The Railway Emergency Board is going to report tomorrow at 12.30.

I think that is about all.

Q May I ask you to repeat that last?

THE PRESIDENT: The Railroad Emergency Board will report tomorrow at 12.30, to me.

Q Will we get the report then?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose so. I have no idea what is in it.

Q Has there been any wide reaction to your attitude on Palestine?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; but not only before I spoke about it -- since I spoke about it, but before it. A great many letters came in, of course.

Q Did you have a letter from Cardinal Dougherty?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so. They are all being answered.

Q Will any be made public?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Of course if anybody wants to make public their own letter to me and my reply, that is all right so far as I am concerned.

Q Do you care to comment on the findings of the Senate Campaign Committee regarding WPA political abuses in Pennsylvania and some other states?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot because I really have not read it.

Q Mr. President, there are reports yesterday that your Power Committee has already started conferences with the Utilities and that a loan was in sight?

THE PRESIDENT: The first part is right and on the loan question it is not right. I think the Assistant Secretary of War, who has been chairman of that committee, is going to give out a statement today which covers, roughly, two things. The first is the definite plans on the part of the Utilities for adding to their facilities and, secondly, that they are continuing to study on further plans.

Q Will there be loans, do you think?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I have no idea. It depends entirely on the individual situation.

Q Mr. President, is that Power Commission meeting regularly?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so, right along.

Q Are they coming in to see you?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think they are. (Laughter)

Q They are coming in today, Mr. President -- Johnson (Assistant Secretary Louis Johnson) and Edison (Assistant Secretary Charles Edison).

THE PRESIDENT: I guess that is about something else.

Q Mr. President, J. David Stern and Senator Guffey have been callers here within the last three days and today comes Robert L. Vann. There is quite a lot about Pennsylvania politics going on around Washington and I wonder if we could say anything about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I guess you are probably right. (Laughter)

Q Who arranged the visit of Mr. Vann?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose he asked for it.

Q There was a statement in this morning's paper from the SEC about the Whitney case. Is there anything more coming through, do you know, sir, about that matter?

THE PRESIDENT: As I understand it, this is part one of three reports. Of course, it is a very, very interesting document. It is rather horrifying. There is no use going into it; you have had the summary just the way I have. That shows certain practices that went on, which everybody, including the Stock Exchange, is trying to prevent in the future.

Q Have you seen the other two?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Will they be made public?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose so; I don't know. All I am able to say is that the thing was in three parts. It is very voluminous.

Q Mr. President, have you given any thought to any recommendations for construction of new naval or air bases in the Atlantic?

THE PRESIDENT: It is a very interesting thing. I am wondering who is trying to find out.

Q I am.

THE PRESIDENT: Why is everybody so interested in the location of new naval or aerial bases? I don't quite get it. Why, it is just part of the general program of national defense -- there are no details and no decisions.

Q The National Retail Dry Goods Association is proposing that you have a conference with distributors, laborers, farmers and all economic factors to consider an alternative to Secretary Wallace's two-price plan. Have you given any thought to it?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not even heard of it. I will have to ask about it.

Q Have you any comment to make on the suggestion of the Dies Committee that you were misinformed about its activities in the Michigan situation?

THE PRESIDENT: You know what I would do for a good story? I would go to your colleagues of the press who covered the Dies hearings and find out from them what they think about the conduct of the hearings by the Chairman.

Q (Mr. Paul Anderson) I covered them all.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that would make a good news story.

Q (Mr. Paul Anderson) I wrote it at the time.

THE PRESIDENT: Don't you think I am right?

Q (Mr. Paul Anderson) I think your comment on it was mild -- certainly mild compared to mine.

THE PRESIDENT: If I had been in your place I would probably have said the same thing. I think you will get a grand story by interviewing your colleagues up on the Hill who have been covering those hearings.

Q (Mr. Paul Anderson) Some of us wrote the same thing you said in your statement but in stronger terms. Some of us commented orally in language -- (Laughter)

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #496,
Executive Offices of the White House,
November 1, 1938, 4.10 P.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I hope you enjoyed listening to the race (between Seabiscuit and War Admiral) as much as I did. I don't think there is any other news.

Q Mr. President, is there anything that you can say on your meeting with Mr. Groesbeck (of the Electric Bond and Share Company) this morning? He came out with a very bullish statement and said, or rather indicated to us that there was a rapprochement -- he said to use that word because it was a good old State Department word -- between the Government and the private utilities.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think that is all right. I don't think there is anything to add. We had a very nice talk.

Q Looks like you aren't going to get your little opportunity to go down to Gravelly Point before you go away.

THE PRESIDENT: Not this time. I think it is better to wait, Russell (Young), because we haven't got the dirt ready to fly, but we will, I hope, have it ready to fly by the time we get back.

Q Mr. President, did you tune in on Mars Sunday night?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I did not know about it until the next morning.

Q What has got to be done over there at Gravelly Point before you start? Is there anything important holding it up?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is the allocation of the work among the different departments that will do it for the Authority (Civil Aeronautics Authority).

Q Will they have to wait until you go there before they can start?

THE PRESIDENT: I think they are still working on the plans.

Q They won't start until you go there?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, they may. This is not going to be a formal opening. I will drive down and look it over.

Q Anything about Mr. Harrison and Mr. Pelley?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you got all there was. You got it all from them.

Q Do you think the railroads are anxious --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) They are holding a meeting, as I understand it, with the railroad executives.

Q Will you, sir, reconvene the special committee you appointed or will they reconvene of their own account?

THE PRESIDENT: They are reconvening on their own motion. Do you know when?

MR. McINTYRE: Very shortly.

THE PRESIDENT: Within the next few days.

Q Are you in favor of a naval base in the Caribbean?

THE PRESIDENT: We have one.

Q Are you in favor of expanding that one, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot answer that question. That is almost like asking, "Are you going to establish any more aviation bases on the West Coast?"

Q Is it too early to say when you expect to get back from Hyde Park?

THE PRESIDENT: Certainly in time for the eleventh of November, Armistice Day.

Q Can you comment on the approaching visit of Colonel Batista?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except that he has been invited to come here for the last couple of years and now I am very glad he is coming.

I am having a visit at the present time from an old friend of mine and a good friend of many of you, the former Prime Minister of Belgium, Mr. van Zeeland, who is sitting here behind me.

Q The Republican State Committee of Connecticut has just made public a poll which shows that 85% of the people are worse off today than they were in 1936. Does that merit any comment?

THE PRESIDENT: The comment is, "So what?" (Laughter) Consider the sources. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, can you tell us when Commissioner McNutt may return from Manila?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I understand -- I haven't heard anything in the last -- what? six weeks, but about six weeks ago I understood he was coming back around January.

Q Does it rest with him?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, have you and Mr. van Zeeland come to any conclusions on the state of the world?

THE PRESIDENT: We have always had for a good many years very similar conclusions. The similarity has not changed.

Q Could you share any of those with us? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, has the Treasury informed you of the proposed efforts of the Daladier Government to absorb all the gold held by private investors and have foreign exchange control?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q With possibly a revision of the Tri-Partite Agreement?

THE PRESIDENT: No; that is a new one on me. I think, Fred (Storm), it was a UP story I read on the ticker.

Q (Mr. Storm) It ought to be true, Mr. President. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, Chairman Dies said last night that he had invited you to cooperate with the Committee so that he could make a proper investigation and that you declined. Can you comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Ho hum. (Laughter)

Q Is that for quotation?

Q Can you tell us about your conference with these housing officials this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that was a further exploration of a problem that we have had for the last three years. We started in with the HOLC, which saved a very large number of existing homes, and then the next step was the FHA, which has been very successful in creating homes, new homes, for an income group -- to put it in a rather broad statement -- that could afford to pay ten dollars or more per room per month. Those figures, of course, are for the more northern part of the country.

That did not do much good for the poorest group of tenants and home owners in the country, so then we started what was at first the Slum Clearance Authority under the Interior Department and that graduated into the present U. S. Housing Administration. That has been very successful in providing a great many homes for people in the lowest group. That would take care of people who could afford to pay five dollars or less.

That still leaves in the nation a very large group of people who can afford to pay between five and ten dollars per room per month, who have not been taken care of by any of the existing agencies. This talk this morning was to discuss ways and means of getting cheaper financing for that particular group of the population, so that we could have, for example, in the north individual homes at a cost of approximately $3,000. that would rent on the basis of between five and ten dollars per room per month.

Those studies are continuing. We have not found a definite way out yet. We are still working on that problem but it is a very great national need.

Q Would that involve private capital?

THE PRESIDENT: That is what we are trying to get, private capital.

Q Did the method of cheaper or mass construction enter into that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q That is a part of it?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a part of it, too.

Q Anything to say on that?

THE PRESIDENT: That part of it is probably a little more easy than the question of getting the money. The problem of getting the money is not that the money is not there, but the money that is put in by the very large investors and the large -- what shall I call it? -- the large sum money, where it is put in in great blocks by individuals and corporations, they seek, of course, some additional privilege for the use of that money, and many suggestions along the lines of tax exemption have been made for the money -- I mean tax exemption in the higher brackets in order to encourage it to go in for this type of safe investment.

What I am exploring is the fact that we have in this country an enormous pool of money belonging to the small investors who do not come in the upper brackets of the income tax and are seeking to find investments that will bring them in a net of somewhere around 3%, 3¼ or 3½%. The machinery for bringing this type of investment to the small, individual family has never been developed.

I have had studies made in half a dozen communities, which show a surprising amount of $1,000., $2,000., $5,000. potential investments where the people do not know what to put the money into. They had their fingers burnt in putting it into stocks and debenture bonds and things like that in 1927, 1928 and 1929. They won't go to the brokerage houses any more and they won't go to the bankers and the banks won't give them any advice -- they used to -- where to put the money. They don't know how to get a 3%, or 3½% return.

But the actual total of all these families and individuals that have got small amounts leads me to believe that there is a pool waiting for a form of investment such as this particular housing investment would be. Now, that is our problem and we haven't the answer yet.

Q Is that known as the Lambert plan?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that is one of many plans. The Lambert plan does call for a partial exemption of income taxes in the upper brackets. That is what we are trying to get away from.

Q Has any consideration been given to the question whether the effect of the minimum wage law will diminish the need for rental subsidies for the lowest paid group?

THE PRESIDENT: No. We think that there is -- well, for instance, that is the Straus housing. I suppose the applications to go into new Straus houses will be five and ten times the number of rooms that we have available so the improvement of wages will take a long time before that demand is satisfied.

Q There are 1800 applications for the Langston Housing Units in Washington which can take care of some 350 families and they are from $3. to $5. a room, I think.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q The Federal Building and Loan Associations, do they bring any small money into house building, or does that not pay enough interest?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think that comes into that, not cheaper housing.

Q Has any plan been arrived at to salvage New England timber knocked down by the hurricane?

THE PRESIDENT: That is all done.

Q Settled?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so.

Q Can you discuss the visit of Kettering (Mr. Charles F. Kettering, of General Motors) this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, we talked about inventions.

Q Could you enlighten us on your conference last Friday with Robert L. Vann, of Pittsburgh?

THE PRESIDENT: He came in and talked to me about a Negro division in the Army.

Q Is that all?

Q Did he mention politics, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: He did not. I am sorry to spoil a good story, but he did not.

Q Have you reached any decision on that experimental dirigible?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet; I haven't got a report. I am waiting for it.

Q What are the reports you get from New York State on the political situation?

THE PRESIDENT: All right.

Q Have you sealed any envelopes, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. I am going to. (Laughter)

MR. RUSSELL YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Right. I will see some of you at Hyde Park on Friday.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #497,
In the President's Study in his
home at Hyde Park, New York,
November 4, 1938, 11.15 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. George, (Durno) how's your bridge?

Q (Mr. Durno) Not so good.

MR. McINTYRE: It is improving, Mr. President.

Q We would like a story, Mr. President. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I have not been down here long enough to acquire one.

Q Are you, by any chance, planning a short trip this weekend?

THE PRESIDENT: No, who suggested that?

Q There have been some very persistent reports that you were going into Ohio or Michigan.

THE PRESIDENT: What kind of reports, what is the source?

Q I don't know.

THE PRESIDENT: It is always interesting to find out the source of stories of that kind.

Q Mr. President, what time may we expect the text of your speech tonight?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Fred (Storm), I have got the semi-final draft done and I am going to work -- as soon as I can throw Mac and Kannee overboard I am going to work on the final draft, but I have not as yet prepared the three o'clock radio address. That is that. I have not even drafted it.

Q It is going to be kind of tough.

THE PRESIDENT: How long will it take mechanically? (Meaning the evening speech)

MR. McINTYRE: About an hour.

THE PRESIDENT: If I get it to you at five o'clock, it will be six when you (the Press) get it.

Q We couldn't get the text in the early editions. We could get leads in but could not run the complete text.

THE PRESIDENT: What is your dead line on that?

(Discussion off the record.)

Q King George, in a message to Parliament today paid high tribute to your efforts in bringing about the peace of Munich. The office is wondering whether you have any comment.

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot, Fred (Storm), because I haven't seen it yet.

Q Mr. President, the Senate Campaign Investigating Committee has made some rather important charges about coercion of WPA workers, not by WPA but by local politicians. Mr. Williams, I think, in the main has denied that. The Senate Committee seems to be set on making some kind of a report to the Senate on individual races.

THE PRESIDENT: The only thing I have seen is what I read in the paper about some local political people who were trying to influence votes in Pennsylvania, both sides, Democrats and Republicans. The only thing I have seen is that, and that was a perfectly specific thing because they mentioned the counties and the people. And they also mentioned something about a shipyard.

Q The WPA workers were given jobs in the shipyard after they promised to vote the Republican ticket, according to the charge.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Any comment to make on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course it ought not to be done and it is being kept down as well as it is possible to keep it down. No administration can be wholly responsible for the actions of either Republican or Democratic local political leaders. Every effort is being made to prevent them from getting mixed up with WPA. Be sure, in writing your stories, that you make it apply both ways. In this county, for example, wouldn't you agree with me that it applies more to the Republican leaders than to the Democratic leaders? (Laughter)

Q That editorial inquiry recalls to mind the question of what might be done about the Wagner Act. You will recall that you talked about that before leaving Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you will find that pretty well covered in tonight's speech, but not the Wagner Act alone but all legislation of the past five years, all legislation. Make that clear, too. Do not make a lead on the Wagner Act. Say the same thing about the Social Security Act and the same thing about giving help to crippled children, destitute children, and so forth and so on. Every law needs improvement and always will.

Q Mr. President, I wonder if you can discuss some phases of the Naval program in reference to construction. There was quite a lengthy article this morning in the Times.

THE PRESIDENT: I saw that.

Q It brings up that very interesting point of improvements as we go ahead while actually under construction. I wonder if you would comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Except that it is an interesting article and very well written because it is a highly technical subject. It points out two things that are of real importance. The first is that in 1933, when we started the building up of the Navy, we had had practically no experience in the design of new ships since the ships which were designed in 1918. There was a complete lack of experimentation with new designs over a period of fifteen years. For example, the destroyers that were built then were entirely different from the war-type destroyers. They had to embody all kinds of improvements which science had made possible in those fifteen years. The same thing has been true of the light cruisers which are now going into commission and we are, as every nation is, we are experimenting.

The other phase and the important phase that was mentioned was the length of time that it takes us between the appropriation of the money by Congress and the actual completion of the ship. That length of time is altogether too long. One of the principal reasons for this is the changing of design during the progress of construction of a ship and that we are trying to eliminate and hope within the next year to make a very material reduction in the time that it takes to build a ship.

Q Have you anything to say on the almost identical bids that were submitted for the hull and machinery of the three new battleships which were rejected by the Navy Department?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not seen them; they were opened the day before yesterday.

Q Yes. They all ran from fifty-two to fifty-four million.

Q Forty-nine million --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) They have been rejected.

Q No final action has been taken yet.

Q I think they put them aside.

THE PRESIDENT: They would not reject a bid on a battleship in three days. It takes weeks to study the bids.

Q In that connection, to bring up the question of cost of construction, the original bid for the WASHINGTON and NORTH CAROLINA, those were set aside as too high and the Navy went ahead in their own yard. These bids submitted by the private yards are all a million or two millions higher than the bids for the WASHINGTON and NORTH CAROLINA, which had been set aside.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes?

Q Now, that raises a point as to a yardstick to measure the cost of building a battleship.

THE PRESIDENT: They have those in the Navy Department all the time.

Q The point I had in mind was that if the Navy goes ahead and builds the WASHINGTON, they have to buy their armor plate, for example, from Bethlehem and Bethlehem Steel. Now, Bethlehem Steel is where its subsidiary gets its figures on cost when they make their bids. They bid their figures on the basis of its cost to them.

Is there any way of knowing whether Bethlehem cost is a fair charge?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes, that is always followed down to the last ton.

Q It occurred to me that we did have, through the war time, that West Virginia plant turning out a small amount of armor plate. I wondered if there was any consideration of putting that in operation to compare the cost.

THE PRESIDENT: Not for armor plate. It was built for armor plate but we know now, through our studies, and accounting methods that have been put in, approximately with a great deal more accuracy than we did in 1913 as to whether the price for armor plate is a fair price or not. That is a comparatively simple thing to determine. We also, of course, have the right, and we do know what the Bethlehem shipbuilding company pays for armor plate to the Bethlehem Steel Company and therefore have a comparison of what it costs us, when we are buying for a navy yard ship, for the same armor from the same armor plate company.

Q You said, in connection with that West Virginia plant, it is not for armor plate?

THE PRESIDENT: It is going to be used but we are not ready yet to make an announcement.

Q By the Navy?

THE PRESIDENT: By the Government, the same way that the New Orleans Navy Yard is about to be used by the Government.

In fact, I think you can go so far as to say that in our studies of essential national defense needs we are surveying all land and all unused plants that the Government owns for the purpose of using them, if they are fit for operation, rather than buying existing privately owned plants on private land. That means a very large net saving to the Government in every case that we can use existing Government property.

Q Have you made your predictions as to the outcome of the New York State election?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet; I have not had time. I have been working on the speech.

Q Mr. President, are you planning to open up your new cottage during your stay here this time?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Is it completed yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No; it is going to be boarded up.

Q Will you comment on the action announced in Japan as to their intent to substitute for the Nine-power Treaty, now considered obsolete, a working arrangement between Japan and China and Manchukuo?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I will have to refer you to your colleagues covering the State Department today.

Q They sent us up an aide-memoire. (Laughter)

Q Are you writing a speech in connection with the Will Rogers Memorial?

THE PRESIDENT: I think about two and a half minutes.

Q Is that at three o'clock?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, inasmuch as you probably are not making a local appearance this time, would it be all right for me to ask if there may be some Dutchess County reference in your speech?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I can say that I am very definitely going to vote for Dick Russell as District Attorney, because, as a purely local matter, I think it would be a good thing to have Russell handling the local affairs in this county -- with the expectation that if elected he will serve his full term. (Laughter)

Q We are a little slow this morning. We should have got that thirty seconds before you did. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I hate to ever refer to an editorial page. Last Tuesday you were, nearly all of you, in the White House (at the press conference) when somebody asked me the following question -- Kannee hasn't got his notes here but his recollection checks and I think yours will too: "Mr. President, have you any comment on a poll taken by the Republican State Committee in Connecticut which showed that 85% of the people polled did not believe they were better off than two years ago?"

Answered by the President, with a perfectly cheerful smile, "So what -- considering the source?"

I think you will all check on that?

Q That is right.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that is almost verbatim, with a smile, "So what -- considering the source?"

I don't mind, in fact I welcome opposition on controversial matters of opinion in any editorial column in the country. Those opinions, whether favorable or unfavorable ought, as a matter of simple American honesty, to be based, at least in part, on fact. Note the heavy tone of sarcasm.

The Herald Tribune this morning runs an editorial -- the following is the first paragraph: (Reading) "When President Roosevelt's attention was called to a poll of 5,000 residents of Connecticut which showed 85 per cent of the voters answering 'no,' to the question, 'Are you better off today than you were two years ago?'"

That first half of the sentence is, of course, a deliberate lie for the very simple reason that that was not the question asked me, as you know. The question asked me was, "When his attention was called to a poll by the Republican State Committee of Connecticut," which makes it a very different question, and to leave out those words is a deliberate misrepresentation of the question.

(Reading) "He brushed it aside impatiently, with the testy remark: 'So what?'"

That is equally a definite and a deliberate falsehood because I did not say, "So what?" I said, "So what -- considering the source."

That ought to be a lesson to every newspaper owner in the United States on how public opinion loses confidence in newspapers when, on the editorial page, the editorial -- never mind what the editorial says, I don't care about the opinion part of it -- when the editorial is based on two misstatements of fact in the two separate phases of one sentence.

That, of course, does not apply by any means to all the papers. It applies to a few papers; therefore, this is not an attack on the press of the United States in any sense of the word. It is calling your attention and the attention of the public to certain types of papers which sometimes commit atrocities of this kind deliberately. I am not talking about the accidental kind of atrocity.

I am sorry, John (O'Brien).

Q (John O'Brien) It is all right with me.

THE PRESIDENT: It was not your fault. Isn't it terrible? Isn't it a perfectly dreadful thing?

Q John (O'Brien) spotted it before breakfast this morning and talked about it to me.

THE PRESIDENT: I think John is as het up as I am, probably more so.

Q (Mr. O'Brien) Yes.

Q It has been suggested that your reluctance to refer to editorial pages is a reluctance not to speak of the dead. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. I told John Boettiger that if I were running his paper I would not run an editorial page because Mr. Ochs told me he had had a survey made to find out how many people read the editorial page of the Times, which is probably more widely quoted than the editorial page of any other paper in this country. He said his very careful poll showed that 8% of the readers of the Times read the editorial page and of this 8% only 4%, read any one editorial through. Which is on the authority of Mr. Adolph Ochs.

Q I am surprised it is that high, four out of a hundred.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe there is anything else. I think I am going to work on the speech all day.

Q How about Governor Cross?

THE PRESIDENT: Is he coming?

Q He is coming for lunch.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, my God! That is off the record. (Laughter)

MR. McINTYRE: That is all right; we know how fond you really are of the old man.

THE PRESIDENT: I am fond of the old man but he is interfering with my speech.

Q Anybody else?

THE PRESIDENT: I have got somebody coming in at five o'clock and cannot remember what it is.

Q Anything further on this school situation in connection with the local thing? There has been some question raised about architects and --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The only thing I heard was before I left Washington, that the PWA had had to give them a dead line and that dead line, I think, is very close and they will have to recommend cancellation unless the dead line is met.

Q Does it involve a question of architects? There has been a dispute.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, on the ground that the plan of the School Board -- the plans of the School Board cannot be carried out adequately by the architect selected.

Q Well, it is quite a serious --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Not a big enough staff and not enough experience to carry the whole thing through. Of course that is a thing that I cannot do anything about because it is the regular procedure with PWA. They have to have competent architecture and they have to decide whether an architect has enough of a staff and enough experience to carry through the job.

Q May I say anything at all on what you say?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I have to be bound by the regular rules of PWA that apply in every part of the country.

Q There is some threat that the thing will be cancelled?

THE PRESIDENT: It looks pretty dark at the present time.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #498
At the Town Hall, Hyde Park, New York,
(after the President had voted),
November 8, 1938, 12.40 P.M.

Q Mr. President, have you that watch chain of Andrew Jackson's?

THE PRESIDENT: I have it; it is in my safe.

Q You are saving it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; the Andrew Jackson watch chain is too valuable to carry around.

Any news today?

Q It is Election Day, Mr. President, have you any comments to make?

Q It is nice election weather all over the State.

THE PRESIDENT: Have all of you people voted? You are not all residents of the district.

Q (Mr. Storm) I cannot get an absentee ballot in Maryland.

THE PRESIDENT: Fred, you have got a bum state.

Q One more Democratic vote down there won't make any difference.

(Laughter)

MR. McINTYRE: That is off the record.

Q Have you any comment at all on the election?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except that it is a fine day and everybody is out voting, which is a good thing.

Q Have you made up a list of predictions?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Do you plan to?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope to. I hope to be able to sit down with a piece of paper and pencil.

Q Mr. President, you voted the State Democratic ticket, I suppose, did you not?

THE PRESIDENT: It is a secret ballot. (Laughter)

Q Would you be in a position to comment as to how you voted on the Constitutional amendments?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think so; it is a secret ballot. By the way, we got through our school thing last night.

Q Yes, I heard of it. It is very swell and I imagine they are very happy.

THE PRESIDENT: Very happy and now it is a question of whether we can build three schools for the money. They are coming down tomorrow to talk about first, where to put the buildings, what site, and the character of the buildings, and I think maybe I will be able to help a little on the saving of money, since I have done so much building.

Q I was going to ask the question in relation to your little visit to Poughkeepsie. Some mention was made of the fact that you are interested in slum clearance?

THE PRESIDENT: That is it and that is all there was. In other words, under the present law, these city slums -- you cannot go outside of the city limits -- you can organize by action of the city authorities, that is the Board of Aldermen, a non-profit corporation which can issue tax-exempt bonds, in other words, make a very excellent investment, and pay them all with low interest under this new plan in twenty-eight or thirty years. That is why we were studying within the city limits and looking at property of that kind, because the property has to be a very, very cheap property in order to pay off the bonds. It is paid off within twenty-eight or thirty years under this plan and at the end of that time the property, including the buildings, belongs to the city, so that nobody has any equity or unearned increment. It is a good investment and, at the end of the period, the buildings and land belong to the Authority, in other words the city. Of course a thing like that ought to be started by people who have enough interest in improving housing conditions.

Q Do you feel that there is quite a real need for housing in Poughkeepsie?

THE PRESIDENT: All you have to do is to drive through certain sections through Poughkeepsie. I went into two or three of them and looked at the buildings which are supposed to be lodgings for poor people. They speak for themselves.

Q Do you mean the Nelson House? (Laughter)

Q When are you planning to go back to Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: Thursday afternoon, I think.

Q Anything on national affairs that we should know about?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a thing. I signed all my mail this morning and there isn't a thing of interest in it.

Q Who will be with you tonight?

THE PRESIDENT: Just the family.

Q You have a phone connected to National Headquarters?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know whether Mac (Mr. McIntyre) has had one put in or not. I think he has. Mac will be out and I think Frank Walker will be out with him and Harry Hopkins is coming back this afternoon after voting in New York and probably -- his little girl Diana is up here.

Q Will you have a statement after the results are known?

THE PRESIDENT: No; I never do.

Q Are you coming back soon?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably not until February. I am going down to Warm Springs the end of November for a week or ten days.

MR. STORM: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I think we will have a fairly quiet day. I don't know what you can write about on a day like this.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference No.499
At the White House,

November 11, 1938 - 10:20 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: The Commonwealth of the Philippines has asked us for the assistance of some experts from the Department of State and the Department of Labor in connection with immigration control in the Philippines. The State Department is designating Mr. George L. Brandt, Foreign Service, and the Secretary of Labor, Mr. I. F. Wixon, Deputy Commissioner, who cooperated together before; and they are being sent out to the Philippines, their expenses being reimbursed to this Government by the Philippine Commonwealth. That is part of the general plan of being helpful in detailing officers to smaller countries to help them organize necessary agencies of government.

We have decided to take part in the Central American Radio Regional Conference to be held at Guatemala City on the 24th of November for the purpose of concluding a regional agreement in harmony with Article 7 of the General Radio Articles adopted at Cairo, Egypt, in February of this year. We sent a delegation to take part in that.

Q May I have the date again?

THE PRESIDENT: The 24th of November.

There are no appointments, but probably will be within a week; some--I don't know which--before I go to Warm Springs.

Q Is Governor Murphy on that list, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Nobody is on the list; it has not been made up.

Q When do you leave for Warm Springs, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: The 20th or 21st.

Q You will stay over Thanksgiving?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Will a Supreme Court Justice be on this appointment list?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Any prospect of Frank Murphy going back to the Philippines, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not thought about it; I am taking it up over the week end. There are quite a large number of vacancies--all departments.

Q Mr. President, the Argentine Government has expressed itself as very disturbed over the report that the United States plans to sell subsidized wheat in Brazil, and has said such sale would be looked upon as an "international incident." What is your attitude?

THE PRESIDENT: Hasn't somebody said already in the Government that we did not have anything to do with it?

Q It is said that the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation has pledged its cooperation in such a sale.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I know only what I read in the newspapers.

Q Mr. President, will you give us your reaction to what Mr. Dewey called "the election returns"?

THE PRESIDENT: I think they are all right.

Q Do you believe, Mr. President, or will you comment on the election returns in regard to your radio "Fireside Chat" last Friday night? Do you think they indicate a defection from liberal government as you outlined it?

THE PRESIDENT: No, certainly not.

Q How will it affect your program in Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: Just exactly what I have had before--only state it right!

Q Will you not encounter coalition opposition?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think so.

Q I do! (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: The trees are too close to the forest!

Q Mr. President, did you ever disclose what was in that envelope you hid away on the election?

THE PRESIDENT: It was pretty good!

Q What do you mean by "pretty good"?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I will give it to you three ways; I figured out New York just about the way it came out; on the total of Senators I was one out.

Q Which way?

THE PRESIDENT: I figured a loss of seven, and apparently it is eight. That is almost as good as some of the polls.

Q Which one fooled you, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I have forgotten. (Laughter.) I couldn't tell you because I haven't got the slip with me; but I was one out. On Congress I was twenty out.

Q Which way?

THE PRESIDENT: I figured about sixty-five lost in that, and apparently it will run eighty or eighty-one. That is better than most guessers around here! (Laughter.)

Q How about the governorships?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't put anything down on those only New York; didn't know enough about it.

Q Mr. President, have you anything to say about the Nazi Government's expanded campaign against the Jews as the result of the shooting of the German diplomat in Paris two or three days ago?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think not, Fred; you better handle that through the State Department.

Q In that connection, Mr. President, on election day the British chose that particular day to put out their proposed "white paper" on teletype.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't read it.

Q Mr. President, do you know whether Mr. Chamberlain is coming with the King and Queen?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no idea.

Q Mr. President, what is holding up the site of the new veterans' hospital in Illinois?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know--I haven't the faintest idea. They have had the hearings; that is all I know.

Q I understand it was to be a P.W.A. project, and some wondered whether it can go on now.

THE PRESIDENT: They have selected the site?

Q No, that is what the squabble is about.

THE PRESIDENT: Before it comes to me, they will have to select a site.

Q Do you think you will go down the Potomac through the week end?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think I will stay here ; I will stay here until about time to go to Warm Springs.

Q Are there any particular matters, Mr. President, you are going to take up with Colonel Batista this afternoon?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q How long before Congress convenes will you have the social security program planned?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I have no idea. Of course all those things are being studied at the present time. I have no idea what the program will be.

Q Will you make stops at any other points besides Warm Springs?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know yet.

Q Anything new on the defense program, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Not for publication; quite a lot of new things, but not for publication.

Q Are you contemplating an early session of Congress, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes (pause) the 3d of January! (Laughter.)

Q Early enough, Mr. President! (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: No, I would just as soon have them here any old time!

Q They can't come unless you call them, can they?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter.)

Q Have you altered your plans not to go to Lima?

THE PRESIDENT: Altered my plans not to go to Lima? Isn't that based on what you call a false premise? (Laughter.)

Q Mr. President, do you consider the large vote for Senator Wagner as endorsement for the labor act in its present form?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that is sort of an impossible question. I say the voters of the State of New York, by nearly half a million majority, wanted him to return to the Senate of the United States because they liked his record. (Pause.)

Thank you, Mr. President! (Conference ended about 10:35 A.M.)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference No. 500,
At the White House,

Tuesday, November 15, 1938 - 4:08 P.M.

All in!

Q Mr. President, before you get down to the unimportant things, I would like to ask you a national question: Have you settled the matter of the Gravelly Point airport? (Laughter.) It may sound funny, but it is important, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I will tell you; last Friday at Cabinet meeting, it was discovered that there were three different opinions from three groups of lawyers. Of course that creates a very difficult situation! (Laughter.) So I referred the matter to the Department of Justice with the request that they straighten it out and make it legal to go ahead with Gravelly Point. At 6 o'clock that same night, they telephoned they had done it, and it is now legal.

Q Have you approved the allotment, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I did that before it was made legal! (Laughter.)

Q Then they can get their money now?

THE PRESIDENT: They can get their money now, so I am told, and go ahead.

Q Another important question: Mr. Delano said today during the discussion of the memorial you were going to say something about the cherry trees.

THE PRESIDENT: I was going to withhold that until Friday, because you have so many other things today. I would suggest that you hold in extenso that about the cherry trees.

Q I will surely do so.

THE PRESIDENT: I am glad your paper is not following a certain other paper in Washington on this thing.

Q Thank you.

Q We were just interested in saving the dogwood, Mr. President!

THE PRESIDENT: I think Russell is doing very well today--sort of a continuous performance, this is.

RUSSELL YOUNG: Excuse me, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Now let us come down to more serious things than cherry tree campaigns. Here are several things you will ask me, so I might as well shoot first. First, about the situation in Germany: I just dictated the following; it is not very long, and I think you might as well take it down:

"The news of the past few days from Germany has deeply shocked public opinion in the United States. Such news from any part of the world would inevitably produce a similar profound reaction among American people in every part of the nation.

"I myself could scarcely believe that such things could occur in a twentieth century civilization.

"With a view to gaining a first-hand picture of the current situation in Germany I asked the Secretary of State to order our Ambassador in Berlin to return at once for report and consultation."

That is the end of the statement. I think you know this. He is leaving on Thursday on the Manhattan, day after tomorrow.

Q Mr. President, will that be mimeographed to give out?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Would you elaborate on that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think it speaks for itself.

Q What about the talk or rumors or report that that is called a "recall"?

THE PRESIDENT: Technically speaking, in diplomatic parlance, it is not a recall; it is a summons to come home.

Q Have you any estimate how long Mr. Wilson will stay here?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing further than what the Secretary of State said today.

Q Have you made any protest to Germany?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing has gone that I know of.

Q There are reports from London that Mr. Kennedy has made a suggestion to the British Government concerning a place wherein the Jewish refugees would be taken care of.

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot comment on the report, because I know nothing of what has been happening in London. We do know that the International Refugee Commission is at work trying to extend its help to take care of an increasingly difficult situation.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us whether you feel that there is any place in the world where you could take care of mass emigration of the Jews from Germany--have you given thought to that?

THE PRESIDENT: I have given a great deal of thought to it.

Q Can you tell us any place particularly desirable?

THE PRESIDENT: No, the time is not ripe for that.

Q Have there been any comments or protests made to you concerning the destruction or damage of American property in Germany?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing has come through on that; I imagine the Embassy is checking up on it.

Q You said nothing as yet on a possible protest to Germany; is there anything on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot say anything on that.

Q Would you recommend a relaxation of our immigration restrictions so that the Jewish refugees could be received in this country?

THE PRESIDENT: That is not in contemplation; we have the quota system.

Q Mr. President, has there been time for you to obtain any idea of German reaction to the temporary withdrawal of Mr. Wilson?

THE PRESIDENT: Only what I have read through the press.

Q Mr. President, switching from the German situation to the national defense, is there anything you can say in addition to the piecemeal stories we have been getting recently?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so; you know that we had a very large conference in here yesterday; you saw them. I can tell you the status of things at the present time. As I suggested before, you should not try to anticipate things; no decision has been made at the present time; we are simply in the study stage.

As a result of world events in the last few years, and as a result of scientific advancement in waging war, the whole orientation of this country in relation to the continent on which we live--in other words, from Canada to Terra del Fuego--has had to be--our conception of it--has had to be changed. There is today a continental solidarity among the twenty-one republics and Canada which is more definite, more unanimous than ever before in the last 120 years, since the Latin American republics were struggling for their independence. Therefore, on this continent we are substantially unanimous in the belief that as a continental doctrine we must be prepared to carry out the outline of continental solidarity that was established at Buenos Aires. It is very important to get the conception that this is a continental solidarity into which we fit as one of the republics. We therefore have to check up and see what is necessary in order to maintain this continental solidarity against any possible threat from any other continent. These particular discussions that we are having relate to that problem; and the first thing we realize is the fact that any possible attack has been brought infinitely closer than it was 5 years or 20 years or 50 years ago. There are a good many reasons for that, and there is no use to go into all of them, but one of the reasons is the development in aircraft. We are therefore studying national defense and continental solidarity against possible attacks from other hemispheres, other continents, along these different lines, including the problem of aircraft. Yesterday's meeting was confined almost entirely to the problem of aircraft. We are not ready to go into figures of any kind. If I were writing the story, I could not give figures at this time; but the facts remain that the continental safety today is far too low on that particular phase. That is about all I can tell you, except that we are taking--going to take steps first with resources which are already at the disposal of the Government, and secondly by asking for legislation so as to place the defense of the United States and the continent against any possible aggression from the outside on a safer basis; and that is about as far as we can go.

Q Could you name any number of aircraft, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No, that is just exactly what I cannot do; and no story on numbers at the present time is any good, because we don't know.

Q Mr. President, that means that the problem of national defense has now become a problem of continental defense; is that correct?

THE PRESIDENT: In cooperation with other republics and Canada.

Q That is, it has changed in that period to a problem of continental defense rather than national?

THE PRESIDENT: But continental defense that does not rest solely upon our shoulders; in other words, in cooperation with the other twenty republics and Canada.

Q Does that take into account the possibility of defection from continental solidarity?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't anticipate any such defection from continental solidarity.

Q Will you tell us how much reason you have for believing in that solidarity?

THE PRESIDENT: A good deal of reason.

Q Do you refer to the hemisphere?

THE PRESIDENT: North, Central, and South America.

Q Mr. President, are you considering the possibility of it being necessary to build a fleet large enough to defend both the Atlantic and Pacific Coast at the same time?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, yesterday Mr. Johnson said that the program might mean a half billion dollars more on the appropriation, and we assume that that was the Navy; is that true?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Was that the Army or both?

THE PRESIDENT: In the first place, the figure is wrong, and in the second place the assumption is wrong. The way the question was put, it might assume an additional five hundred million dollars over and above present expenditures in the budget. That is not necessarily so.

Q That is the impression we got.

THE PRESIDENT: It is not necessarily so; I cannot enlarge on it yet, because I am not ready for it.

Q Have you any figures?

THE PRESIDENT: There will have to be some legislation.

Q Does that include neutrality legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: No, defense.

Q Could you amplify the new danger which makes this continental defense necessary.

THE PRESIDENT: Read the newspapers for the past five years.

Q Mr. President, are you discussing the position of the Philippines in the new plan?

THE PRESIDENT: The American flag floats over the Philippines.

Q Mr. President, Secretary Morgenthau had a meeting attended by Mr. Eccles, Mr. Delano, and Mr. Bell having to do with natural resources, and said you would have something to say about it.

THE PRESIDENT: I got it, and I thought it would be better to hold that until Friday. That is a separate realm.

Q Mr. President, there has been a report that Attorney General Cummings will resign soon.

THE PRESIDENT: Those are the other two things--No. 1, Jimmy: the doctors tell him he is coming along all right, but he has got to go awfully slow and can't come back here probably until spring; therefore, his resignation is formally coming in today with the expectation that he will come back again in the spring as soon as he is strong enough to assume the kind of work one has to do here in the White House.

The other relates to the Attorney General, and it is not a new story; it is a very, very old one. In 1933, when the

Attorney General first came, he was very loath to stay more than two years. He wanted to go back to practice law before he was too old to practice law; and at the end of two years I persuaded him to stay on. From that time on, from time to time, he has told me that he ought to go back to practice law; and on every occasion I have told him to hold his horses and stay a little longer. Finally, last July, he said the time had come when he simply had to go back to practice law. I told him to hold it off until October; so I talked to him in October, and told him if he felt he had to do it--which he very definitely felt--I supposed there was nothing I could do except to let him go back and practice law sometime in January, after the Congress is all here.

I feel very sorry he has to go, because, of all the various departments of the Government, without making any distinctions or comparisons, the Department of Justice, in the past five years--as I think most of you will bear witness--has accomplished very extraordinary results, not only improvement in methods in the actual handling of cases in the lower courts and the higher courts, but also in tackling certain problems that were so necessary to be tackled on a national basis and on which the country demanded something be done--interstate crime, kidnaping, and all the others. Today we have a system of detection of interstate crime--the apprehension of crime--probably as good as any in the world.

And with that of course goes a very great improvement in the practice of penology, the handling of prisoners, the extension of the building of decent prisons to live in, so that, on the whole, I feel that the Attorney General has accomplished a very remarkable piece of work in the five and one-half years he has been down here in Washington; and while no date has been set, he probably will go back to practice law, after begging me for four years to let him go, sometime in January.

Q Will Mr. Jackson be promoted?

THE PRESIDENT: There are no other resignations and no thought of filling any places yet.

Q Mr. President, has the Attorney General formally submitted his resignation?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, his departure will not cause any slackening in the enforcement of the antitrust laws, will it?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter.)

Q Mr. President, can you say anything about a successor to your son or the Attorney General?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not considered any appointments to take their places.

Q Any appointment for the S.E.C.?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Before you leave for Warm Springs, do you intend to make any judicial appointment?

THE PRESIDENT: Of the new judges?

Q Yes. 2

THE PRESIDENT: I think maybe; I don't know. I am talking to the Attorney General about it tomorrow. I am going over a file of recommendations that I think, when I last saw it, was three feet high, and I think it is probably six feet high now. I am going to begin on that tomorrow.

Q Will you or Mr. Hull sign the trade agreement?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that the Secretary will sign it.

Q What day, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Hasn't the State Department given that out yet?

Q No.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, then don't try to get that out of me! I nearly got caught. (Laughter.)

Q Secretary Welles' party for Thursday has been canceled, Mr. President, and everybody thinks it will be then.

Thank you, Mr. President!

The Press Conference adjourned at 4:28 P.M.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #501,
Executive Offices of the White House,
November 18, 1938, 10.48 A.M.

Q Mr. President, I want to apply for a White House job.

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

Q I want to be Coordinator of White House Press Conferences. You have one at a quarter to eleven and Mrs. Roosevelt has one at eleven.

THE PRESIDENT: The trouble was the Canadian Prime Minister came in. What are you going to do about that?

Q Haven't you any influence with Mrs. Roosevelt to get her to postpone hers? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Ask the Canadian Prime Minister.

Q To ask Mrs. Roosevelt to have hers at a different time?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I am appointing a temporary board which will -- I don't know what a really good name is, but the name is the least important -- which will be an advisory board, a temporary advisory board, on certain fiscal and monetary subjects. Their duties -- first, I will tell you who it is: The Secretary of the Treasury, Chairman, and the members will be the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Director of the Budget, and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the National Resources Committee. Each member can name an alternate from his agency to serve with him in his place and in his absence.

The duties of this board will consist of canvassing, systematically, the broader problems of fiscal and monetary policies in relation to national production and the national income. In other words, they will study the whole range of a great many problems that relate to fiscal and monetary policies in respect to sound and orderly recovery and conditions essential to slowing down the peaks and valleys.

It is just another step in tying in all the different agencies of the Government so that they will view any given broad problem as a whole instead of merely in its component parts, and they will report from time to time informally. Probably this is as much as you will hear about it for some time.

Q Mr. President, have you any comment or any thoughts on the summons home of the German Ambassador?

THE PRESIDENT: Has he been summoned home?

Q Yes, sir.

Q An official dispatch said that he had been summoned home to report in detail on the queer attitude of the United States toward domestic questions of Germany. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think any comment is necessary.

Q In your discussion two days ago on the question of continental solidarity, you laid considerable emphasis on the inclusion of Canada in that idea. Would you favor the extension of the Pan American Union to include Canada?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; that is an entirely separate problem.

Q On Tuesday, Mr. President, you intimated that you did not propose, or would not consider, lowering the immigration barriers for the benefit of German refugees. Since that time a good deal has been said in print that you might do so after all. Have you changed your mind?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There is one other factor that was brought up that is a brand new one which I did not hear about until yesterday. There are in this country at the present time quite a large number -- I think you had better check these figures through the Secretary of Labor but I am inclined to think that they run as high as twelve to fifteen thousand -- refugees from, principally, Germany and Austria -- what was Austria -- who are in this country on what is called "Visitors' Permits," I think that is the word. In other words, they are here, not on a quota but as visitors with proper passports from their own governments. The situation apparently has arisen that because of a recent decree those visitors' passports will be canceled as of the thirtieth of December, this year. Now, as a matter of practical fact, of course a great many of these people, who are not all Jews by any means, since other religions are included in very large numbers among them, if they were to go back before the thirtieth of December, actually, as I understand it, get back to Germany before the thirtieth of December, a great many of them believe that their treatment on reaching home might be a very serious problem. In other words, it is a question of concentration camps, et cetera and so on. They are not here under a quota so we have a very definite problem as to what to do. I don't know, from the point of view of humanity, that we have a right to put them on a ship and send them back to Germany under the present conditions. We can legally -- the Secretary of Labor can, legally, give six months extensions so that they can stay in this country under the six months extension provision. As I understand it, the law does not say how many six months extensions there can be -- it does not limit the number -- so what I told the Secretary of Labor yesterday was that it would be a cruel and inhuman thing to compel them to leave here in time to get back to Germany by the thirtieth of December and, therefore, I have suggested to Miss Perkins that they be given six months extensions. Under those extensions they cannot, as I understand it, apply for American citizenship; they are only visitors and therefore, there being no adequate law on the subject, we will simply present the facts to the Congress. If the Congress takes no action, these unfortunate people will be allowed to stay in this country.

Q Will you repeat that, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: They will be allowed to stay in this country under the six months extension law because I cannot, in any decent humanity, throw them out.

Q Do you understand that you may at the end of the first six months extend for another period of six months?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q And on and on?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so but I am not clear about it. Anyway we are going to present the situation to the Congress when it meets and I have no doubt that in the case of these twelve or fifteen thousand people the Congress will not compel us to send them back to Germany any more than the Congress compelled us to send a large number of the refugees of the old regime back to Russia after

Russia was taken over.

Q Are they permitted to work over here?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, as visitors, a good many of them, for example, are teaching in the universities and colleges.

Q Will more visitors be admitted?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there won't be very many more because they are not being given passports.

Q That is right.

Q In presenting this to the Congress, will the situation cover any possible change in the quota laws?

THE PRESIDENT: I think not.

Q Will there be any possibility of these people changing their status so that when there is an opening under the quota law they can remain as prospective citizens?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think they can; I think they have to go back to the place of origin in order to come in under the quota. I think that is the law. They cannot be here and then come in under an after quota under the present law. They would have to go back. It is a very difficult problem.

Q Mr. President, do you contemplate a study of New England such as was made in the South by the National Emergency Council?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. That is a brand new one.

Q Were you going to have something to say about this cherry tree uprising today? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I am afraid that I would have to say something about newspapers if I said that. I don't mean all newspapers, I mean a few newspapers.

Q Can't you say it? There is a press waiting to flash this news to the world down here. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know whether I should be polite as to what was done by Washington newspapers or not, especially two newspapers in Washington. I suppose it is one of the most interesting cases -- luckily they are rare -- of a flim flam game being started by the owner of a paper. It is a complete deception of the public and all you have to do is to read -- I will give them back to Steve, Steve dug them up for me -- the clippings from some of the Washington newspapers in the course of the last few weeks. The statement in one paper "Six hundred trees must give way to the Memorial." Another one, "Many of six hundred trees involved in Memorial may be lost." That is tuning it down a bit.

"328 cherry trees at shrine doomed by secret move." "Public arises at finding new monument dooms 328 cherry trees in Basin. This ten million dollar project ..." And so it goes.

It is the worst case of flim flamming that this dear old capital of ours has been subjected to for a long time.

Now, of course, the facts are very simple. They have got to be looked at from the point of view of what Al Smith would have called "the record." For a long time, dating back to when I was in the Navy Department, I thought it was a sort of funny thing that one of our three greatest Presidents had no memorial in the National Capital -- practically no memorial of any kind, and in the Wilson Administration there were a good many attempts made to get a memorial to Thomas Jefferson and every time that a memorial was suggested, it was a strange thing that while quite a lot of people backed a memorial -- they would not admit they did not like a memorial to Thomas Jefferson -- they did not like the particular one suggested. So the thing failed.

When the Democratic Administration came back in 1933, we all decided we ought to have a memorial for Thomas Jefferson. As you know, of course, the thing hung fire in Congress and there were a lot of reports and so on and so forth. Finally it came down to a question of site and there were four different sites proposed for a straight memorial and out of the four, finally, by action of the Legislature, this particular site was picked. It is too late to change that site. There is going to be a memorial to Thomas Jefferson in accordance with the action of Congress on that site.

Then, number two, there was the question of the type of memorial which divides itself in two parts: First, should it be utilitarian? Well, that was all discussed. Should it be a stadium or a municipal hall or a race track? -- somebody suggested a race track (laughter) and it was decided again, after complete discussion lasting about four or five years, that it should be a non-utilitarian memorial. So that was all gone into.

That decision having been taken, it became a question of what kind of non-utilitarian memorial it should be and there were two or three plans suggested. The first cost too much and of course there was no unanimity of opinion in regard to the design -- there never is -- but the constituted legal authorities decided on a design and that design is about to be carried out at a cost of somewhere around three million dollars.

Then, all of a sudden, a newspaper campaign -- we have seen them before, we know what they are, the public does -- they thought it would be good advertising to talk about the cherry trees. Well, I don't suppose there is anybody in the world who loves trees quite as much as I do but I recognize that a cherry tree does not live forever. It is what is called a short-lived tree and there are forty or fifty cherry trees that die or fall down or get flooded out or have to be replaced. It is a short-lived tree and we ought to have, in addition to the 1700 trees we have today, I think another thousand cherry trees. There are lots of places to put another thousand trees. Let us plant 2700 trees instead of 1700.

Actually, according to the records, this particular operation will result in a net loss of the present cherry trees of eighty-eight and of course that net loss will be made up, not only those eighty-eight, as I hope, but 912 others.

So you see what a flim flam game this has been.

A Jefferson Memorial, so far as hotel keepers are concerned -- well, I am just a hick from Dutchess County, a Democratic hick, and when I go back to Dutchess County I think it would be quite a magnet to me to come back to Washington, as a tourist, to see this new Jefferson Memorial, with another thousand cherry trees down around that Basin.

Q They are Japanese cherry trees. Can you get them?

THE PRESIDENT: Why, sure. We are putting in forty or fifty every year.

Q (Mr. Durno) What year will you be coming back, Mr. President?

(Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let us see. Let us put it this way: Early and often. (Laughter)

Q Dutchess County Republicans are all admirers of Thomas Jefferson anyway, are they not?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (Laughter)

Q Of course this is serious to some of us newspaper men. Women are going down there to chain themselves to these trees --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The action has been taken by Congress and if anybody wants to chain themselves to the tree and the tree is in the way, we will move the tree and the lady and the chains and transplant them to some other place. (Laughter)

Q How much of this can be used that you have said about the cherry trees and the Memorial?

THE PRESIDENT: You can use it all as long as you do not quote me.

Q Mr. President, do you plan shortly to release the report of the Joint Preparatory Committee on Philippine Affairs?

THE PRESIDENT: They have a date for it and I cannot tell you what it is. It is all set for a date, I think.

Q Have you recommendations on that already?

THE PRESIDENT: No, just the report.

Q Mr. President, I understand that a number of telegrams have been sent down to the White House urging Governor Benson as WPA Director of his state. Would you care to comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I thought somebody else had been appointed.

Q There is an Acting Director out there but nobody appointed.

THE PRESIDENT: Ask Harry (Hopkins). I think somebody has been appointed.

Q I think it is just Acting Director.

Q Before you leave on Sunday afternoon is there any possibility of your going down to see Gravelly Point to start the works?

THE PRESIDENT: That depends on whether I have time in the first place and, secondly, whether they are going to have any shovel down there. I will go tomorrow afternoon if they are ready for me. No ceremony though.

Q Have you any appointments to announce?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet. Frank J. Rice, Collector of Customs, Customs Collection District No. 43.

Q Where?

THE PRESIDENT: Memphis.

Q Have you exchanged notes in connection with the British Trade Agreement bearing on export subsidies and the possibility of the British Government taking some retaliatory move? That is under Mr. Wallace's wheat export plan.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. My mind is not quite up to the subject today.

Q Did you discuss with the Prime Minister the proposed development of the St. Lawrence Waterway?

THE PRESIDENT: I think there were about forty seconds (devoted to that). I expressed my hope that something would be done to hurry it. I think he said that he agreed with me.

MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #502,
At the President's Cottage,
Warm Springs, Georgia,
Tuesday, November 22, 1938, 12.30 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: It is good to see Ralph (Smith) back with us.

Q (Mr. Smith) I am happy to be back.

THE PRESIDENT: How is the boy?

Q (Mr. Charles Daly) Fine, splendid.

Q Could you comment on Chamberlain's announcement on the establishment of Jewish havens in South Africa and Guinea?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not seen any original of it.

Q You would not comment in lieu of that?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q I received a long message from the New York office this afternoon in which they quoted from the "Nation" and say that you had to prod Ambassador Kennedy into action in order to assist in this Intergovernmental Committee on the refugee problem?

THE PRESIDENT: Fred (Storm), does your office know yet that I do not comment on newspaper stories?

Q (Mr. Storm) I had to go through the motions. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Is the Nation a newspaper?

Q No, sir; it is a magazine.

THE PRESIDENT: Is it a magazine?

Q They claim it is. I will leave this with you, Mr. President, if you would like to read it.

THE PRESIDENT: I would like to read it; thanks, Fred (Storm). It sounds almost like a columnist, does it not? (Laughter) Ralph (Smith), you are not a columnist?

Q (Mr. Smith) No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: It is all right.

Q Mr. President, before we left, Representative Rayburn indicated that he and other Congressional leaders probably would be down here. Have you made any arrangements?

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely none. I never heard of Frank Murphy coming down, either.

Q I was told he was.

THE PRESIDENT: Where did you get that from?

Q Oh, I cannot tell you.

THE PRESIDENT: Middle of the night? (Laughter)

Q No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: As a matter of fact, I have not got a single date for anybody. I was just sort of cutting things off -- it is a horrid thing to do -- but I haven't got a single date for anybody, except Hugh Wilson, who is coming down after he has seen the Secretary of State and been to the State Department. I suppose he will be down Sunday or Monday. That is really the only conceivable date I have. I have no thought of having any dates.

It is possible that what I said to Sam Rayburn was that if he was coming to Washington while I was here, why didn't he come by way of Warm Springs. He said he would if he was going. Now, that can hardly be called a date. The same way I sent word to Will Bankhead that if he was going to Washington why didn't he go by way of Warm Springs.

MR. McINTYRE: Do you want that on the record?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It is just for your personal information. What

I do want on the record is the fact that I haven't any dates. How can you handle it? I have not got any dates. If it is convenient to them, if they were coming this way while I am here, it would be very nice if they dropped off. But I have not any appointments.

Q It is all right to say that you had suggested that if they were going up to Washington they could come by way of Warm Springs?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but there are no appointments.

Q In other words, you would be glad to see them if they dropped off?

MR. McINTYRE: Go ahead and write your face-saver.

Q Have you given any thought to appointments?

THE PRESIDENT: No; I am sorry I cannot help you at all.

Q Will we get any while we are here?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not the faintest idea. We are going to have an awfully barren two weeks. You can talk about the Marines, and talk about Mac (Mr. McIntyre) but that is all there is to talk about.

Q Someone was asking how are Hop and Tug? (The two mules which had been named after Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Tugwell.)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I did not stop on the farm. I drove right past because I thought it was going to rain.

MR. McINTYRE: It would be all right to tell them about Pine Mountain.

THE PRESIDENT: Do they want to do that?

MR. McINTYRE: It is Friday at 2.00 o'clock.

THE PRESIDENT: That will be the best news they have had yet. We will go a couple of times while we are here. We are giving you all the bad news today.

Q On the main highway it is all right.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got a new dirt road to explore. You go to Chipley and then take the road to the right. You have never done that.

Q We had enough last time. (Laughter)

Q Is the appointment of a new Associate Justice to the Supreme Court in sight yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Have you a long list of names that you are considering?

THE PRESIDENT: There ain't no appointments in sight. As a matter of fact there are three appointments back home in Washington that will be out soon, aren't there?

MR. McINTYRE: We will possibly have them for tomorrow.

Q Has McNutt given any indication that he would like to be relieved as American High Commissioner to the Philippines?

THE PRESIDENT: No; he is coming home in January.

Q For good?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. There isn't a story you can get out of this answer, Fred (Storm). It is terrible. You can bark and bark but the tree will still be there.

Q Have you any expectation of seeing Governor Talmadge or any of the crowd as to this Georgia melee?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. Did the insane asylum go through?

Q The last I saw it had tentatively gone through.

Q P.W.A. gave so much and the W.P.A. gave so much and we got $4,000,000.

of the $7,000,000. that Governor Rivers asked for originally.

THE PRESIDENT: I believe it is all cleaned up.

Q That is contingent on legislative enactments in January.

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is all set.

Q It is all set.

THE PRESIDENT: There is something that you can do in the State and that is this: On this particular grant, we did something that perhaps we ought not to have done because four years ago the only way that Georgia could get any benefits was by setting up an authority which it did not have, or by amending the Constitution so that it could borrow the money for its share. Well, that was four and a half years ago and we wanted to do something so as not to cut Georgia out of the first P.W.A. altogether, so we devised a method for the State Prison and the method was for the Federal Government to build the whole thing and rent it to the State for a sum equal to the interest on the money and the amortization but, when we did it, we told the State -- I have forgotten who was Governor at the time --

Q (interposing) Talmadge.

THE PRESIDENT: No, it was before Talmadge; it was Dick Russell. We told Dick we could not do it again because repayment to the Federal Government would depend entirely on each successive legislature, which would mean that if the legislature did not come across with the rent, we would have to throw out all prisoners and close the building and have an empty jail building on our hands.

In the meantime, four and a half years have gone by and the

State has not done one single thing about it. So we came up against it this year and again it was, "Please, we are all down on our knees weeping bitter tears. Please let us have the money." I said, "Why didn't you do what we asked you to do?" It is the only state in the Union -- emphasize it, the only state in the Union -- that has not cooperated with the Federal Government on public works. It is a terrible thing to say but it is true. And finally, because we were silly, softhearted idealists, we went and did it again in very much the same way. We gave the 45% P.W.A. grant and Jesse Jones loaned them the money.

Now, I don't know -- well, I think it ought to be made perfectly clear that not one red cent more goes to the State of Georgia until they do something about it. Never again! It was the only state in the Union that failed to go along.

Q It is your State, your home State. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I know it. I am softhearted but there is a limit. Now, that ought to be stressed.

Q What was that last loan for?

THE PRESIDENT: It is the insane asylum.

Q In Milledgeville.

THE PRESIDENT: There is no question about it, the insane asylum was terribly needed, in the same way the prison was needed.

Q On the prison we went a long way.

THE PRESIDENT: How is it working?

Q If we keep politics out of parole.

THE PRESIDENT: It is quite a difficult job. I went all through it as Governor.

Q I am on the spot as a newspaperman because I have attacked it.

THE PRESIDENT: The history of parole in the State of New York was that the first board that went in did not play politics but it was too softhearted and we have had to tighten up each year a little bit.

Q Edgar Hoover has an idea that you have to figure parole from the standpoint of protection of the public as well as rehabilitation. We are not doing it in Georgia. There are too many of our habitual criminals who are being paroled. That means more money spent getting them back into the prison where they belong.

THE PRESIDENT: Most of our trouble in New York has been from third and fourth offenders. So now, in the State of New York, (under the law which gives fourth offenders a life term) the larger percentage of the parolees are first offenders. And then we have another thing, which is the wall-less prison and that is working pretty well. Those are for first offenders of the type of criminal who is not, in a sense, and should not be called an habitual criminal. It is for the type of man who has had a little financial trouble and has taken $200. out of the till. He is not going to run away.

Q He did not plan to do it -- he just slipped up a little.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Is it possible you could have heard so soon from the Joint Railroad Management Committee that is supposed to make recommendations?

THE PRESIDENT: When are we going to hear? Mac, (Mr. McIntyre) why don't you take it up tomorrow and ask them informally, off the record, when we are going to hear something because we have not heard a peep.

Q Is Danny Bell going to come down?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Are you doing anything while here on the defense program?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing in particular.

Q How is that shaping up?

THE PRESIDENT: It is coming along very well. I am not doing much on it but a lot of other people are.

Q Can you tell us the number of planes?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

There is going to be a Sunday party for all of the children down at the Marine Camp. There is going to be close-order drill, et cetera and so on and the Colonel suggested that they could put it on the air. Why don't you tell the radio people about it?

MR. McINTYRE: Will you tell Carleton?

Q (Mr. Daly) Yes, I will.

THE PRESIDENT: You will get lovely photographs, too. (Referring to Charles Daly's propensities for taking pictures for his own collection.) (Laughter)

MR. McINTYRE: Columbia and NBC are broadcasting fifteen minutes Wednesday night, descriptive stuff, and both asked whether there was any possibility of you saying a word.

THE PRESIDENT: Thursday night?

MR. McINTYRE: From 7.00 to 7.15.

THE PRESIDENT: I will have to make a speech.

MR. McINTYRE: That won't be on the air.

THE PRESIDENT: Why not put me on the national hookup the first five minutes and the rest off the record.

MR. McINTYRE: All right.

THE PRESIDENT: What time?

Q (Mr. Daly) 6.45 in the diningroom and then you will be on from 7.00 to 7.05.

What time is the drill going to be on Sunday?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; it will be Sunday afternoon.

MR. McINTYRE: Probably about 3.00 o'clock. We are going to check on that.

THE PRESIDENT: Make a nice piece of description. We had an open-order skirmish three years ago and all the Marines shooting at each other with blank cartridges, with the defensive force directly in front of us and these people crawling on their tummies from cornstalk to cornstalk and dropping down and firing. The children were really scared to death and thought they were going to be captured. We had a grand time. It was a real thriller.

Q It looks as if we will have to make it.

THE PRESIDENT: I think we are going to have an awfully quiet time. I brought very little down in the way of homework.

Q You are going to rest?

THE PRESIDENT: And play.

Q Are you going in the pool tomorrow?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so.

Q Are you going to the farm?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so.

Q We ought to get auto hire if we cannot get news.

THE PRESIDENT: Evie, (Mrs. Walker) have you learned how to make out an account yet?

Q (Mrs. Walker) You mean an expense account?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q (Mrs. Walker) I have had some awfully nice ideas on the train that had never occurred to me.

THE PRESIDENT: I can give you some ideas.

Q (Mrs. Walker) I will think of something very good.

Q We have been trying to get up a gold tournament but we cannot get Mac (Mr. McIntyre) started.

THE PRESIDENT: He started this morning, it was under 70.

MR. McINTYRE: What are you talking about? I did 64, as a matter of fact.

Q I am not worried about the score, it is getting him out on the course.

MR. McINTYRE: He is just giving me a build-up.

THE PRESIDENT: He was good. Were you good this morning?

Q Walter Trohan was good.

THE PRESIDENT: What are we going to do? Dan Callaghan played his first nine this morning and Mac beat him. We will have to have a match between them.

Q I bet Mac asks him for a stroke the hole.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

AxP 12-6-55

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #503,
Warm Springs Foundation,
Warm Springs, Georgia,
November 25, 1938

Q What's the news, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: None at all -- you had it all last night.

Q Any comment on the British action to close Palestine to further Jewish immigration?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing more than I read in the paper.

Q That was a statement by the Colonial Secretary Malcolm McDonald [MacDonald] to the House of Commons, objecting to the proposal to allow one hundred thousand more Jews?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Any new appointments, Mr. President, new Judgeships, or anything?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think we have any at all. I can't think of anything. You will get lots of news this afternoon. We are going over at George's request to Pine Mountain Valley. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Trohan) I hope we stay over about five or six hours.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that will do it -- we'll about be back in time for supper.

Q I think you are doing this deliberately. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What date do you want to go again? Saturday? Tomorrow?

Q I hear they have ice, sleet and snow in Washington, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Really?

Q Six inches.

THE PRESIDENT: Gosh, what do you know about that.

Q See how well we timed it -- maybe we can stay another week.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

I can't think of another thing.

Q Has it definitely been decided which day Ambassador Wilson is coming?

THE PRESIDENT: Have we heard, Mac? Sunday or Monday, I should think. Can you think of anything else?

Q Have you heard from Rayburn or Bankhead?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think we have heard at all.

Q How is the National Defense program coming along, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: All right, as far as I know.

Q Anything on railroads, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No -- we haven't gotten a pouch this morning. When is it coming down?

(Mr. McIntyre answered.)

THE PRESIDENT: (Addressing Miss [Bourke-White] Burk White, photographer for Life Magazine) How does it feel to hang out of an aeroplane by your feet? Why don't you tell these boys something about hanging out of an aeroplane by the feet -- I think they need it. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, there were some figures from the Labor Department in the paper this morning, that employment has picked up by 900,000 from March until the end of October. Is there any comment you have on that?

THE PRESIDENT: What are you driving at Fred (Storm)? Maybe I can help you. What kind of a story do you want me to give you?

Q A good bullish, business story.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, employment has picked up -- no question about it. But, of course, you always have to remember this -- that when employment picks up it doesn't necessarily mean that relief rolls can drop in proportion immediately, for the very good reason that we all know that last March (when we gave the figures out) there were a good many hundred thousand people who were out of work, needed work and there was no work for them. You see? In other words, the relief appropriations did not employ, at the low point, anything like all the people who needed relief.

Q What do reports show now on the general business situation throughout the country?

THE PRESIDENT: Increasingly better. Another fact, of course, is that production in most industries increases faster than the reemployment of labor. That is one thing we have had to contend with right along. And also we have to take into consideration that the number of people seeking work is a constantly yearly increasing factor, because the population is going up. To put it in a simple way, if there were thirty million (take any round figure) people employed at the peak of, what was it? the spring of 1937, today there would be several hundred thousand additional people who would have to be employed to make up the boys and girls coming of age, that is, getting to the working age.

Q Does population increase about two million a year?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what the figure is. I don't think it is as much as that, Felix (Belair).

Q Mr. Hopkins told us at Hyde Park the last time, that a permanent curtailment in WPA relief programs probably would take place, and that it was not so much a matter of employment increase as a matter of policy. He seemed to indicate --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't understand it well enough.

Q Can you give us in round numbers, Mr. President, what you will ask for from the Congress for relief for the next year?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not until the third of January.

Q Is it possible that Dan Bell will be down here?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q What are you going to do at Pine Mountain Valley?

THE PRESIDENT: What is the program, Mac?

(Mrs. Roosevelt whispers something from back seat of car.)

MR. McINTYRE: Just about an hour's program there, Mr. President, somewhat like they put on last year, and you are to make a few well chosen remarks.

Q Where is it to be held?

MR. McINTYRE: Outside.

THE PRESIDENT: It is going to be a good day -- it's all right.

Well, no Georgia news?

Q I think you handled that situation. Mr. Smith (Ralph Smith, of the Atlanta Journal) isn't asking any questions today. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Ralph Smith) Well, that was out of my hands anyway, and everybody agreed with you.

THE PRESIDENT: I think so -- it's going to help.

Q (Mr. Ralph Smith) I hope some day you will express yourself about our County unit rule.

THE PRESIDENT: Ralph, you would have to explain it to me first.

Q Mr. President, I do not know whether you care to go into it or not. It is rather difficult to understand. You see, we could have nominated a Senator down here with thirty thousand votes. The rural districts are kicked up. I figured it out, taking this county for example, Senator George got 1100 votes in this county. The other fellows got 1050 apiece. There are 20,000 people disfranchised. They have no voice at all. It isn't representative government -- it isn't popular government.

THE PRESIDENT: What was the total number of votes cast?

Q The total number was something over 231,000.

THE PRESIDENT: How many eligible voters in the State?

Q The registration showed something over 500,000. In Fulton County, however, George didn't carry a majority of the votes. It isn't representative. If it were based on the Electoral College, for example, or on population, but it isn't.

THE PRESIDENT: Wouldn't it be more useful, instead of talking about the party political angle, to talk about the general subject of county government and local government?

Q We have so many of those counties, however.

THE PRESIDENT: But in one way you are not nearly as badly off as we are in the State of New York, because we have in addition to our fifty-seven counties outside the City of New York, 905 townships and each one of those townships has a complete local government of its own, including a Highway Superintendent, and the Commissioner of the Poor, and assessors, etc. We have a great many more layers of government than they have down here. But on the other hand, in Georgia it is still the rule when an ex-Governor dies to divide another county and make a new county, naming it after him.

Q (Mr. Ralph Smith) When I began writing politics we had 125 counties and now we have 159 counties.

THE PRESIDENT: Has anything been done in this State to study the North Carolina system of highways and schools?

Q No, nothing at all.

THE PRESIDENT: Because the North Carolina progress is probably greater than any other state in the South.

Q (Mr. Ralph Smith) It is developing much faster than any other.

THE PRESIDENT: Much faster, much faster.

(Mrs. Roosevelt whispers to the President, asking whether he has seen some surveys on this subject being made in Georgia.)

THE PRESIDENT: I have heard about those surveys, but you know, as I remember it, in North Carolina, starting in about 1925, or 1926, they borrowed money up to the hilt to build highways and within three or four years of the completion of any given highway, the real estate value of the properties adjacent to those counties amortized all of the bondage. This is a very interesting thing. It pays for itself. It brings it in in taxes.

Q If Rivers goes on he is trying to centralize all the government in Atlanta, and all appropriations in Atlanta, and it will be to the interest of the counties to merge. Fulton absorbed two additional counties. It isn't fixed on population; as the Constitution says, the six largest counties shall have three representatives, no matter how large they are.

THE PRESIDENT: So, roughly speaking, the most sparsely settled county that you can probably find to live in, you get more representation there than in other places?

Q Have you received any reaction to your Press Conference statement the other day about Georgia and WPA? The State Constitution --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, no reaction except what you said. Unquestionably the State will do something about it. We are not saying what should be done as long as something is done about it.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #504,
Held in front of the Press Cottage,
Warm Springs, Georgia,
November 29, 1938, 11.00 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: I did not know where you were. I stopped at Fred's place.

Q We did not move up very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Doris (Miss Fleeson), how are you? I am glad to see you.

Q (Miss Fleeson) I was all right until they handed the kitchen plate to me as a welcoming present.

THE PRESIDENT: I heard about it from the Ambassadors. I heard you take care of them very well.

Q What can you tell us about your talk with the Ambassadors?

THE PRESIDENT: I can tell you that Captain Ross T. McIntire has been made Surgeon General of the Navy.

Q Already? (Laughter)

Q I thought you were trying to build up the Navy, Mr. President. (Laughter)

DR. McINTIRE: Oh, dear, I did not suspect that from you.

Q (Mr. Storm) Congratulations, Admiral. I will say a good word for you.

Q (Miss Fleeson) You will overcome me.

THE PRESIDENT: This is not Storm, but if I were writing the story, I would say that one of the principal motives in the selection was that the position of Surgeon General nowadays calls for more than merely looking after Navy health. In other words, it calls for a knowledge of and cooperation in other things, such as public health and international medicine and other affiliated fields.

Q When will Dr. McIntire take over his new duties, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know, nor does he. (Laughter)

Q What are the "other fields"? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: The next piece of news is that Marvin McIntyre is very sick -- he went to bed at quarter past nine last night. (Laughter)

MR. McINTYRE: That is off the record too.

Q He did not stay in, though, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, you mean he went in to fool Ross (Dr. McIntire) and then got up again?

Q I won't say anything more.

MR. McINTYRE: That is the first time Fred (Mr. Storm) ever lied about me in his life.

THE PRESIDENT: The third piece of news: I am about to appoint -- I think the Commission will come down today -- Mr. Ed Eicher, of Iowa, to the S. E. C. That is the Haines vacancy.

Q How is that Eicher spelled?

THE PRESIDENT: E-I-C-H-E-R.

Q Can you give us some background on him? He retired but did not run again, did he not?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q What is his qualification?

THE PRESIDENT: He has a general knowledge of economic problems. I think you can look up what he did in the House. Also they need somebody from further west.

Q While you were out in the West, did you pick an Associate Justice for the Supreme Court?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Do you need somebody from the West for that vacancy too?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not taken it up at all.

Q Can't you tell us anything at all about your conferences with (Ambassadors) Phillips and Wilson?

THE PRESIDENT: I could not write a story if I tried -- I literally could not.

Q I will if you talk about the conference.

THE PRESIDENT: No, you could not. You could not write a decent story about it even if you were sitting in the room.

Q (Mr. Trohan) I would have liked that too.

Q (Mr. Durno) Mr. President, did you notice Father Coughlan's latest stories?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q He has gotten into this picture. If you have not noticed him, I guess there is no comment.

Q Who is going to succeed Dr. McIntire at the White House?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I guess we will have a combination which includes him. Isn't that the best way of putting it?

DR. McINTIRE: I think that is good.

Q I think you will have to introduce his successor to us gradually.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think it will work out all right.

Q When does that appointment take effect?

THE PRESIDENT: The first of December.

Q Is Mr. Wilson going back to Berlin?

THE PRESIDENT: Not now.

Q Eventually?

THE PRESIDENT: I said, "Not now."

Q He objected last night to the phrase "indefinitely" as bad. Is that so?

THE PRESIDENT: He was right.

Q The information that they (the Ambassadors) submitted to you, was there anything new in it that you had not received before, or was it just a general discussion of this problem?

THE PRESIDENT: General discussion.

Q Will you see them again after you return to Washington, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Phillips is going back about the tenth, I think, and I will probably see them a couple of days after I get back to Washington.

Q Mr. President, could you comment on Joe Kennedy's action with respect to the British censoring a newsreel [film?] firm over there?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know anything about it except what I read in the papers and therefore cannot comment.

Q Do you expect to see Kennedy in the near future?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes. He is coming over but I cannot tell you when.

Q Did you read the story in the morning's papers on the New Orleans Cotton Exchange's view on crop control?

THE PRESIDENT: I read it over hurriedly. I saw one paragraph that crop control would be abandoned. Is that right?

Q It said there must be help but not through loans, that the farmer should be compensated.

THE PRESIDENT: What is the plan?

Q They have no plan. They said they proposed some basic principle. I see Marvin Jones (Representative Marvin Jones) and I thought that might be the subject of discussion today?

THE PRESIDENT: It is just the same old story. They set forth certain objectives and no plan to carry them out.

Q What about a processing tax?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a different subject. First you have to get your plan and afterwards find out how to finance it. But they do not offer any alternative or substitute plan and it is typical of most of the resolutions that are passed, quite frankly, by groups of that kind, the N. A. M., National Association of Manufacturers, and so forth and so on. They set forth perfectly good objectives and no alternative or substitute method of carrying them out.

Q Can I go back to Joe Kennedy a minute? Is his trip at your special request?

THE PRESIDENT: No; leave, holiday.

Q I understand that Chicago has invited you to toss the first shovel in the $40,000,000 subway. Any chance of you doing it?

THE PRESIDENT: No chance of getting out there. When are they going to start it?

Q Very soon, I understand.

THE PRESIDENT: No. When I go back to Washington I have got to dig in.

MR. McINTYRE: You have also declined the invitation to Florida.

Q Also the Insane Asylum at Milledgeville? (Laughter)

Q When are we going to send an Ambassador to Russia?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know.

Q Who is reporting to you on conditions in Russia?

THE PRESIDENT: The embassy. Things are going along all right.

Q Colonel Mac (Mr. McIntyre) would be a good man.

THE PRESIDENT: He is too close to the reds.

Q I know. You might send Dies (Congressman Dies) to Russia. I believe that would take care of everything.

THE PRESIDENT: Hamilton-Dies -- Martin Fish and Hamilton Dies -- so that both parties have got them now. (Laughter)

Q In the diplomatic pouch which arrived yesterday morning from Berlin, there is a story that appeared in the official Navy publication -- a German admiral wrote the story -- in which they said they had information from Japan that Japan had laid down four 45,000-ton battleships. I was wondering whether, on such information, this country would invoke the escalator clause?

THE PRESIDENT: You will have to ask the Navy Department and they won't tell you. (Laughter)

Q I know they would not.

Q That is destructive criticism.

THE PRESIDENT: Have you played our golf course, Brother Whigham?

Q (Mr. Whigham) Yes, I have.

THE PRESIDENT: How do you like it?

Q Very well laid out.

THE PRESIDENT: This is rather a nice story of golf which you will appreciate. I was driving over the course when it was under construction. We got to the eighth hole, and Donald Ross who laid out the course said to me, "This is a trick hole. It is a good deal further than it looks. It is pretty nearly a full midiron." Then we went up to it and it was trapped on both sides, with a precipice on one side and woods on the other end. If you did not land on the green, you were gone. I said to Mr. Ross, "That is a terribly discouraging hill. A good player can take eight or nine on this hole and he is going to give up golf."

"Oh," he said, "no. You know, it is a game of psychology." He said, "He will feel that way until the end of the eighth and then he will step over to the ninth tee and see all the kingdoms of the earth, and he can chop or slice or pull and he has no trouble. He will get to the bottom of the hill."

Q There is a magnificent expanse there.

Q Mr. President, I have an inquiry as to whether Governor Bailey, of Arkansas, is under consideration or has been already named Federal Judge for Arkansas.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no; nothing has been done on that. He came up here to talk about the P. W. A. thing.

Q For the University?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not know -- the University and several other things. Is Bailey coming back?

MR. McINTYRE: Yes, sir; he expected to but was going to call me this morning.

Q Is Frank Murphy coming down?

THE PRESIDENT: No; somebody still has to eat crow. I am sorry.

Q What about Speaker Bankhead?

THE PRESIDENT: He is coming. Mr. Bankhead is coming here Thursday and, is Sam (Representative Sam Rayburn) coming?

MR. McINTYRE: No, sir; I do not think so. He is going to stay in Washington, but he was not definite.

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot think of anything else.

Q Thank you, sir.

Q Oh yes you can. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I was a bit worried about Harold (Mr. Oliver) being burned up in the middle of the night.

Q We had to have a negro with a bucket of water and a dipper, throwing it on the fireplace as it caught fire.

THE PRESIDENT: Where does it catch?

Q The mantel has a wooden frame that runs all around it, right down to the outer edge of the fireplace, so that when the logs go out or start popping --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) It just catches?

Q It catches from the heat, too.

THE PRESIDENT: I think this cottage has been on fire once a year since it was erected, and the other Josephs' cottage catches fire every year, too.

Q Any Georgians coming down this week before you go?

THE PRESIDENT: I do not think so. Do you know of any?

MR. McINTYRE: Yes, there are, but it is not definite yet.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #505,
In front of the Press Cottage,
Warms Springs, Georgia,
December 2, 1938, 12.00 o'clock, noon.

Q Can you tell us anything about your talk with Mr. Hopkins?

THE PRESIDENT: Talk with Hopkins?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I have not had any talk with Hopkins yet.

Q I thought you had one yesterday afternoon.

THE PRESIDENT: We had a grand dinner party last night, together; that is not a talk.

Q How about Ambassador Bullitt?

THE PRESIDENT: Same thing. I am sorry to spoil a good story, Fred (Storm).

Q You have not spoiled mine, Mr. President.

Q Frank C. Walker is down here. Has he a formal appointment?

THE PRESIDENT: He has not a formal appointment. He is coming to lunch.

Q Mr. President, could you tell us about your conference with the Governor and Mr. Camp?

THE PRESIDENT: We did not have a conference.

Q No conference?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Had a nice social talk. Sorry. Aren't I giving them a bad time, Ed ?

GOVERNOR RIVERS: You are doing very well.

Q Did the social talk cover any state matters?

THE PRESIDENT: No, social.

Q Did the Governor assure you, Mr. President, that he would cooperate in bringing about a method whereby Georgia would bear part of the cost of --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh, well, that will be taken care of all right, I think. We are all agreed on that. Incidentally, Ralph (Mr. Smith, reporter for the Atlanta Journal) referred to his friend in the private shop and of course it ought to be made clear in all the papers in this State that, in the first place, the State has received its quota and, in the second place, of course in every state the overwhelming bulk of the money goes to the municipalities, the counties, the cities, the school districts, et cetera and so on, and there has never been any trouble in the State of Georgia on that part. That is the bulk of the money. And the State, I think, is up to its quota. Isn't that right, Ed?

GOVERNOR RIVERS: I think it is somewhere near it. I have not checked it. Of course our attitude has been and will continue to be cooperative on the whole program. I agree with your statement thoroughly.

THE PRESIDENT: We will be able to get around the technicalities.

GOVERNOR RIVERS: I think, unquestionably, everything is going to be all right.

Q Mr. President, at Chapel Hill, in your speech, are you going to touch on the international situation?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not the faintest idea. I have not begun to write it. I have not even thought about it.

Q It is going to be on a national hookup?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q Did you ever hear from the Joint Railroad Committee?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

MR. McINTYRE: I ticked up and they are not ready. They are having another meeting the first of this week.

Q How about a powerful speech this afternoon?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I will turn over the speechmaking to other people.

Q Mr. President, in the conference this morning, was there any suggestion of help to the State of Georgia in meeting the payments to school teachers?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Very splendid conference, thank you.

Q I am afraid, as Managing Editor today, you won't qualify. My assignment sheet is sort of blank.

THE PRESIDENT: Can't you talk about the return of warm weather?

Q We have.

Q We are enjoying it and letting it go at that.

THE PRESIDENT: You might write a piece about Bullitt in search of a good climate.

Q Doesn't he like France?

THE PRESIDENT: When he arrived from the other side he decided he would want some nice warm weather and he went to Bermuda and froze to death. Then he came back, hit a snow storm and then he went down to the Bahamas where they rained him out. Finally he came to Warm Springs and now he is getting it.

Q Put him in Josephs' Cottage, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Does Harold (Mr. Oliver) still lay awake nights, smelling smoke?

Q (Mr. Oliver) More than smoke. (Laughter)

Q Are you ready to talk yet about the details of the legislative program?

THE PRESIDENT: No. You are only about a month ahead.

Q No appointments?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Didn't Hamilton Fish say he would take that place in Russia? (Laughter)

Q After Anthony Eden makes his speech in New York, will he come down to see you at the White House?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not any idea.

MR. McINTYRE: I am checking on that up in Washington. I did not even know he was coming.

Q We understand you had a ceremony of launching the new Admiral yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: It was very nice. I understand you had a fleet review too?

Q We had one last night. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: With Admiral Storm on the bridge of his battleship? (Laughter)

Q I had to tow it.

THE PRESIDENT: I will tell you what I am doing now in about fifteen minutes. I am going to inspect a piece of property below the pool that belongs to the Foundation, with the idea of seeing if we cannot put a little dam across a gully -- it is the creek. What do they call the creek? The Cascade -- it is on that creek, and put a little dam across and have a fish pond.

Q What are you going to stock it with?

THE PRESIDENT: Brim and largemouthed bass.

MR. McINTYRE: Have you the title to sell it, considering my holdings here?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Are you doing anything on a new pool yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think this pool will go along all right for four or five years more anyway.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #506,
Executive Offices of the White House,
December 6, 1938, 4.10 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Glad to see you. How are you all? Well, Dean, (Russell Young) the report on the life and works of those who accompanied us to Warm Springs is that they were one hundred per cent. Now, that is going some. They behaved better than they do in Washington. Now, that is my influence.

Q (Miss Fleeson) I thought it was mine. (Laughter)

Q (Mr. Storm) Thank you, Mr. President. Such a reputation must be deserved.

Q (Mr. Godwin) Did you take that picture of Fred?

THE PRESIDENT: It was all right. That was not Fred's fault. You cannot blame him for that. Blame the lady that took it.

Q (Mr. Godwin) Fred got off at Alexandria this morning. He got off and walked home in disguise.

THE PRESIDENT: He will be explaining that for a year.

Q (Mr. Godwin) He will have to do a year's explaining in twenty-four hours.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: They tell me I have told them everything down at Warm Springs. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about your conversation this afternoon with the Ambassadors?

THE PRESIDENT: No; just conducting conversations, no news.

Q Since you got back have you had time to consider appointments?

THE PRESIDENT: Not one.

Q Can you tell us anything, sir, about this five hundred or fifty million dollar loan to Cuba from the Export-Import Banks?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know a thing about it.

Q Hasn't it come to you yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't know a thing about it.

Q Have you reached any conclusions yet about your armament program, about the scope and length of time of it?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q Did Secretary Morgenthau report anything today of the work of his new committee on fiscal and monetary problems?

THE PRESIDENT: Just talking things over, that is all. I don't think there will be any particular news from it ever. In other words, it is one of those informal committees that meets from time to time, that is talking it over with people outside of the committee and then talking it over with me. I don't think there will be any formal report.

Q Have you any suggestions for Secretary Ickes' Mayoral~~i~~ty campaign?

THE PRESIDENT: No; I haven't talked it over with him.

Q There are frequent rumors that you may go down to the Lima Conference at the end, or towards the end. Can you tell us anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I guess there is no further news on something on which there has never been any news. (Laughter)

Q Can you give us any idea as to when the tax program will be on its way to completion?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing on that at all; nothing more than there was a month ago.

Q Anything on the estimated cost of this new armaments program?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q When do we start for Lima, Mr. President? (Laughter)

Q Senator Guffey demands that you run for office again in 1940. Will you accede to his request? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news on that either.

Q Mr. President, do you contemplate making an address to the Lima Conference by radio?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, would you care to comment on the Franco-German peace pact?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (Laughter) You are getting lots of chances today.

Q Do you care to discuss your plans for receiving Anthony Eden?

THE PRESIDENT: I have not got any plan for receiving Mr. Eden.

Q It was stated that the State Department had sent over a request.

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose when he gets here I will receive him just as I have a great many other foreign parliamentary bodies. I assume he will be brought in by his Minister and I will be very glad to see him as I have seen a great many in the past.

Q Can you tell us on what date Governor Murphy's appointment will be sent to the Senate for Attorney General? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Gosh, they are getting better and better all the time. I am going to have all these questions framed, because this particular time they are good.

Q Will it be the same day that you send Bob Jackson's name to the Senate? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, getting better and better.

Q Can you discuss the budget possibilities, that is --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That you won't get anything on, literally, until the third day of January, and I suppose we will have it the day before, one of those sit-around-the-floor conferences, to talk it over on the second.

Q In reference to your determination not to name anyone to the Federal Bench who has reached the age of sixty, will you ever take into consideration other factors and waive that in some cases or is it an inflexible rule?

THE PRESIDENT: The only way I can answer that is on the basis of past performance. I have had a great many requests and a great deal of pressure, as you know, from a great many members of the Senate and House to put on people over sixty and, so far, I think that we have only put on -- what was it? -- two people over sixty-nine and those, I think, were both promotions from the District Court and on the understanding that they would retire when they got to be seventy.

Q Was that your understanding with Judge Williams in Oklahoma, that he would retire when he was seventy?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. You had better check up with Homer Cummings, but I think so.

Q I think he wrote a letter signifying that desire.

Q Mr. President, do such factors as reemployment or industrial recovery enter into the Administration's policy of national defense?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I am sorry to destroy another good story.

Q Is there anything new on the refugee problem?

THE PRESIDENT: What is that?

Q On the refugee problem?

THE PRESIDENT: No, nothing new on that.

Q Mr. President, are you considering the making of any suggestions for amendment of the Wagner Labor Relations Act?

THE PRESIDENT: That has been studied, I suppose, since the day it was passed and it is continuing to be studied, the whole of the Act.

Q Can you tell us about your conference with Madame Perkins and Chairman Madden in that connection?

THE PRESIDENT: The primary purpose of the conference was to take up some conditions that I was asked to look into when I was in the South, in a mill town in the South, and the thing seems to have been pretty well straightened out in the last couple of days.

Q What was your answer on that national defense? Does it mean that there is no pump priming involved in the national defense program?

THE PRESIDENT: That is correct. In other words, national defense is national defense and nothing else.

Q Will you tell us what you did talk to Ickes about?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if you had seen what he brought in with him you would have known what I talked with him about. I think he had 110 different books for me to sign, to initial, to clean up on final projects. I signed steadily for one hour.

Q You said, "cleaning up on final projects." Did you mean that literally? Is that the end?

THE PRESIDENT: Not entirely, because they are still getting certain revocations coming in from day to day. The only thing is that we cannot reallocate any money that the local people turned back through inability to go through with it unless the new project can be started by the first of January, so that the time is getting awfully short. I don't suppose it will be more than a very few days more before we have to say no more new projects because, under the law, they won't be able to start before the first of January.

Q In the matter of national defense, have you fixed in your own mind any proportion or any per cent. of the new money needed which should be raised by taxation on a sort of "pay as we go" basis?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Do you think we should raise part of it without a fixed percentage?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know yet, Fred (Essary); we haven't got to that.

Q I seem to recall that you remarked here once that you thought some of that money ought to be raised by taxation as in the case of any other expensive project that Congress might provide for.

THE PRESIDENT: Certainly, as a general proposition national defense ought to be paid for on a pay as you go basis, because it is not a self-liquidating project in any way.

You see there are, according to the practice of some countries like, for instance, Sweden -- do not imply from that that I am going to do anything like that -- but in some other countries they have differentiated between three types of expenditure: The first is the actual cost of running the Government in its current work and they try to raise all of that by taxation. Then they have two other classifications of expenditures. One is the absolutely self-liquidating expenditure, such as -- well, for example, Boulder Dam would be -- where the dam is completed and the contracts for the sale of water and power are all signed and we know that over a period of years it is going to pay itself out.

And then they have a third classification -- I have forgotten what the technical term is -- but it is the type of expenditure which will so increase the national welfare or, putting it the other way around, the national income, that there will be a resulting return of the money through the increase in national income over a period of years. It is not actually self-sustaining in the sense that you have contracts out. But national defense, very clearly in my judgment, falls under the category of something that ought to be paid for from year to year.

Q That is why I differentiated between the new money necessary to carry on the program and the usual budgetary sums to be set aside, the additional money for the Navy, as an example.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it ought to be paid for as we go along.

Q Even if it takes additional taxation?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; but, of course, that might, on the other hand, as I suggested, leave out of consideration certain expenditures of the Government which are self-liquidating. Therefore, Q.E.D., it may not be necessary to increase the total amount of taxes coming in. However, it is a matter that is being studied; it is a long and difficult study; nothing has been determined upon and it is purely in the study stage.

Q Do you plan to stay here after Congress convenes?

THE PRESIDENT: I plan to be right here until the end of February.

Q You are not going up to Hyde Park?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think I have any engagements except perhaps to plant some more cherry trees or something like that (laughter), and then we are starting the succession of dinners, etc. I think those are the only dates we have.

Q You heard about Paul Anderson's death?

THE PRESIDENT: I know. I am sorry; he was a very old friend of mine. It is too bad, he was a grand fellow.

Q In connection with the national defense program, one of the War Department reports indicated the other day that we are far behind technically as far as airplane production is concerned. Have you had any reports indicating that that is so?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I have not had that. I don't believe there is anything in that -- not technically.

Q The program of the Civil Aeronautics Authority to promote civil flying, has that any connection with the defense program to train a lot of civilian pilots?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course the training of reserve pilots is all part of any program for an increase in the number of planes that the Government has available to go in the air.

Q Instead of training them purely in purely military planes, is there any plan for a Civil Aeronautics program where they will be used as a sort of reserve in this announced plan?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. Of course you train a pilot on the same kind of a plane for civil aviation as you do for military aviation when you teach them to fly. There is no distinction.

Q Is that to be handled for the Army and Navy?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I have no idea.

Q When you make your recommendations on national defense, will they include the use and conservation of natural resources used in national defense, or will they deal strictly in the military aspect?

THE PRESIDENT: What sort of things do you have in mind?

Q Energy sources and minerals.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I do not think so. No, the only thing that might be a part of any national defense program would be certain resources which we have not got in this country. You know that the Army has made several recommendations saying that the Navy should have certain stock piles of things we have not got, like manganese and nickel and a few other things of that kind, and that does enter into a national defense program. They are things we do not have here.

Q Might you not coddle a domestic manganese industry?

THE PRESIDENT: No, it costs too much.

Q That requires legislation, does it not, to build up those things?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Do you know of any report which has been drawn up showing legal means by which this country might take economic sanctions against countries that discriminate against us on trade matters?

THE PRESIDENT: No; nothing that has not been reported on since the Act was first passed. I have not seen anything for years on that.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #507,
Executive Offices of the White House,
December 9, 1938, 10.45 A.M.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I am seeing the Committee from the National Seaway Council right after the Press Conference, and they are giving me a letter and I am making a short statement in reply, and Steve (Mr. Early) will have a copy of it when you go out. I don't think there is anything else I can think of.

Q It is reported that Senator Lodge is advocating a sixty-dollar-a-week old age pension. Is that one -- does that come under the classification of a short cut to Utopia?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I think the whole thing is being studied by the Board on Social Security.

Q It is sixty dollars a month.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. The whole subject is being studied.

Q Mr. President, there is a report from Melbourne, Florida, that a man named Kammerer wired to you an offer of 30,000 acres of land to be used as a place of refuge for Jews driven out of Germany.

THE PRESIDENT: Never heard of it. Mac (Mr. McIntyre), did you see any telegram?

MR. McINTYRE: No, sir.

Q Mr. President, Harry Hopkins yesterday spoke of the possibility of some changes in relief procedure to meet some of the criticism that has been directed at W. P. A. Have you anything to say on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that is up to Congress.

Q Anything to say about your reorganization conference yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except we made good progress and undoubtedly there will be reorganization legislation in a broad sense asked for and probably bills introduced by various members of the Congress, as last year.

Q Mr. President, you made very good progress in that report that went to Congress and it was not successful in the Legislature. Do you expect any material changes?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I have no idea at all. You see the point is a very, very simple one. We all admit, even some of the columnists, whose names I need not mention, admit that we do need to improve the Government. That is the big, salient point. Congress, everybody else, has probably got as much information dating back forty years as they will ever have. And now, who passes the legislation? Whose responsibility is it? It is the responsibility of Congress. That is just about as far as anybody can go.

Q Will there be a Message?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Will it be soon? Is it one of the things that you hope for or have in your mind for action soon?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I hope at the coming session.

Q Right off the bat, if possible?

Q Mr. President, will you ask for it in one bill or a number of bills?

THE PRESIDENT: That is entirely up to the Congress, as it was last year.

Q Mr. President, there was an allowance to the Budget Bureau of $200,000., if I remember correctly, for exploring this subject of reorganization. Has there been any report?

THE PRESIDENT: Not reorganization. That was studying various questions of administration, actually administration, and they are at work.

Q That is not connected with reorganization?

THE PRESIDENT: Only as a result of reorganization. It is an administrative study, not looking towards a reorganization bill but looking towards the proper functioning of Government if we get reorganization, which is a different thing. That study is going on today.

Q No report?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Lamar Hardy, United States Attorney, was in yesterday. Was he following through on the conferences he had with you in Hyde Park? We understood it was on the spy --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) We talked over the whole spy situation and at the same time he told me again what he had been saying for a year, that he really, for personal reasons, had to get out, to resign as District Attorney. I very reluctantly said that I could not demand that he stay any longer and he will retire sometime in January. There has been no specific date set.

But the important thing was that we discussed what has been done on the spy situation in the past. He did a perfectly amazing job in this spy trial in New York. It is a very easy thing for a District Attorney to spend his time trying petty criminals but it is a difficult thing to go right to the source of one of the most difficult criminal problems that we have in the country and that is spies.

Continuing what I said at Hyde Park, we are going to ask for additional appropriations to meet a situation which is by no means ended by this trial. In other words, the root of this thing, the roots go down pretty deep. I suppose a way of putting it is that we need in the United States no O. G. P. U., or what is the other thing we have -- we do not need any secret police in the United States to watch American people, to watch our own people, but we do need our own people to watch the secret police of certain other nations, which is a very excellent distinction to make, and therefore we are going to ask for more money so that our people can check up on the activities of the secret police of other nations. I think that covers it pretty well.

Q Mr. President, at Hyde Park you mentioned the idea of coordinating the activities of the various Governmental agencies?

THE PRESIDENT: That has been done.

Q Has any step been taken?

THE PRESIDENT: That has been done; it is working.

Q What is that, coordination?

THE PRESIDENT: Coordination of the different agencies of the Government.

Q The different police agencies?

THE PRESIDENT: No -- well, the different intelligence agencies of the Government.

Q Does that include the Military and Naval?

THE PRESIDENT: It includes all kinds of things.

Q Would you care to be specific -- would you care to state specifically what steps have been taken?

THE PRESIDENT: That is one of the things I am not going to tell you, and I don't think it ought to be asked about because, very obviously, if you run stories of the exact workings of the intelligence system you are going to destroy ninety per cent. of the value of that system. That is obvious. You can take it from me that the cooperation at the present time is excellent and there are a great many agencies involved and I am not going to tell you which ones.

Q You do not contemplate the establishment of a new agency?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Has a Coordinator been appointed?

THE PRESIDENT: There you go. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, Governor Frank Murphy, of Michigan, was in town the night before last. Did he go down to the White House to see you?

THE PRESIDENT: No, he did not. I did not even know he was in town.

Q Has the national defense program reached a point yet where it can be discussed yet?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. It is getting on very well.

Q Some months ago you ordered a survey of statistics now being collected from the Government and business men with the idea of seeing if the burden can be lightened somewhat. Have you had a report on that?

THE PRESIDENT: What committee was that?

Q The Central Statistical Board. It was the Central Statistical Board's study of these questionnaires that went out to business men.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know; I have not heard anything.

Q The Wall Street Journal had a story this morning saying you would meet with the legislative leaders on the seventeenth. Can you tell us anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I am afraid that was just a story.

Q I was afraid of that, too.

Q May I go back to the reorganization --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Wait a minute. In answer to Fred's (Storm) question, I think that various leaders of the House and Senate are going to begin arriving here around the middle of the month, some of them in the course of the next week, and will be coming in from then on until the first of January. There are no conferences planned and probably when they do come in they will come and see me. The Speaker is coming before Christmas and I think the Vice President is coming before Christmas and one or two others after Christmas. In other words, it will be the normal procedure of coming in before the Congress begins.

Q Two things which attracted a lot of attention in the reorganization dispute in Washington were your suggestion as to the Comptroller General and the Civil Service Commission. Do you care to say whether or not you are going to maintain the same attitude in your Message to Congress on your suggestions?

THE PRESIDENT: Only as to the general objective. In other words, in the case of the Comptroller General, practically everybody has agreed that audit and post-audit and pre-audit are separate things.

Q Mr. President, are any Federal Judgeships imminent?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so; not at least for the next three or four days. I cannot look further ahead than that.

Q Any other appointments in sight?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Do you expect to recommend any legislation as to the extension of credit or capital loans to business?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

Q Mr. President, could you comment on the recall for consultation of our Ambassador to China?

THE PRESIDENT: No; he has been there four years and I wanted to talk to him and he wanted to come home to get a little breathing spell, so he is coming home to spend a very short time and then will return immediately to the Chinese Government.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #508, (Special),
Held in the President's Study at the White House proper,
December 10, 1938, 3.45 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Have you had a chance to read this? (Indicating mimeographed copies of Press Release.)

MR. EARLY: They have not, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Now, I think possibly you might let me explain first and then read it and then get a complete picture.

For the last two years I have been considering more and more the final disposal of what amounts to probably the largest collection of original source material of almost anybody over the last quarter of a century and it is very voluminous. It includes all of my papers when I was in the State Senate, all of my personal papers when I was in the Navy Department, including the war period. It includes the Vice Presidential Campaign of 1920 and the Convention of 1924, the Convention of 1928, the four years as Governor and I have, up in Albany, sixty packing cases full of those papers of the Governorship. It includes the Campaigns of 1928 and 1930, the Presidential Campaigns of 1932 and 1936, plus all the Presidential papers and the file I operate.

After taking the advice of many historians and others, their advice is that material of that kind for the future ought not to be broken up. It ought to be kept intact. It ought not to be sold at auction, it ought not to be scattered among descendents. It should be kept in one place and kept in its original form because, so often in the past, Presidential papers and other public papers have been culled over during the lifetime of the owner and the owner has thrown out a great deal of material which he personally did not consider of any importance which, however, from the point of view of future history, may have been of the utmost importance.

Therefore, in looking around as to what to do with it, because this relates not just to the Federal Government but to a great many other activities, such as my service in Albany a quarter of a century ago, all the papers as Governor, a great many personal papers that have no relationship to the Federal Government, it became a question as to where they should ultimately be deposited, if deposited in toto, in one place.

Then came the question as to whether it would not be better to put them somewhere where I could personally help the ultimate owner of the papers in going over them, listing them and so forth, annotating them. That made it almost imperative that they should be placed at Hyde Park and, at the same time, that the ownership and title of all the papers, books, et cetera, should be in the Federal Government itself.

Therefore this plan: (Reading)

> "Since 1910 - or in other words for a period of twenty-eight years -- I have carefully preserved all of my correspondence, public papers, pamphlets, books, etc. This includes all incoming material and copies of practically all outgoing material. These years cover my service of nearly three years in the New York State Senate; seven and one-half years as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, including the World War period and two trips to Europe; my business and legal correspondence; much political material between 1920 and 1928, including my campaign for the Vice Presidency, the 1924 Convention, and the 1928 Convention; my campaign for Governor in 1928 and 1930; all of my personal papers as Governor of New York, 1929-1933; the campaigns for the Presidency, 1932 and 1936; and all of my Presi-

dential papers from March 4, 1933 to date.

> "Because these papers relate to so many periods and activities which are not connected with my service in the Federal Government, I do not wish to break them up, leaving a portion of them to the National Archives and dividing the rest between the State of New York Archives, the New York State Historical Society, the Dutchess County Historical Society, the Harvard College Library."

And I might add to that the Naval Records Office here.

> "In other words, it is my desire that they be kept as a whole and intact in their original condition, available to scholars of the future in one definite locality.
>
> "I have carefully considered the choice of locality and for many reasons have decided that it would be best that they remain permanently on the grounds of my family home at Hyde Park, Dutchess County, New York.
>
> "I realize that the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the New York State Library, Harvard University and the New York State Historical Society --"

and others

> "-- would probably be glad to have the whole collection intact. It is my thought, however, that an opportunity exists to set up for the first time in this country what might be called a source material collection relating to a specific period in our history."

That is a very important thing because, so far as we know, it has never been done before.

> "That part of my family's country place at Hyde Park on which we live will, without doubt, eventually go to the Federal Government to be maintained for the benefit of the public by the Federal Government.
>
> "It is, therefore, my thought that funds can be raised for the erection of a separate, modern, fireproof building to be built near my family's house at Hyde Park, so designed that it would hold all of my own collections and also such other source material relating to this period in our history as might be

> donated to the collection in the future by other members of the present Administration."

Well, of course, that would include also members of the Administration when I was in Albany. Fred Storm, for instance, could leave his papers as part of that Administration.

Q (Mr. Storm) I have a lot of them, Mr. President.

Q (Mr. Durno) Only after he is dead. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: He would not part with them before that?

Q (Mr. O'Donnell) It is a question of libel if published before that. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (Reading)

> "I forgot to mention that in addition to the very voluminous correspondence, I have also two rather specialized collections which are of some definite historic value: a collection of paintings, drawings, prints, manuscript letters and documents, log-books, pamphlets and books relating to the American Navy from 1775 to date; and a smaller collection of similar material relating to the Hudson River, and especially Dutchess County and the town of Hyde Park. These collections would be placed in the proposed building, together with the public papers, etc.
>
> "I have also a very large number of books and pamphlets - far more than my children could possibly use, many of them inscribed by their authors to me. The bulk of these books would also be added to the contents of the building and, incidentally, they form the nucleus of a library relating to this period which would be available to students in the future."

Well, for example, I was just talking to Ernest Lindley and he said, "Have you got all the books relating to this Administration?"

I said, "I checked and I have here in the House about three-quarters of all the books that have been written in the last six years about this Administration." That is a good nucleus to start with. Most of them have been given to me by the authors themselves and that would mean the adding only of what is missing, which is about twenty-five per cent."

> "It is my thought that if a building such as I suggest is erected and the material - not only my own but that of others who would contribute their own material - is placed there, the title to the building and all the material would be vested in the United States Government and placed under the primary responsibility of the Archivist of the United States,"

Dr. Connor.

> "This would insure permanent care and the provision of adequate facilities for its use. At the same time, being somewhat familiar with historical material, its preservation and its availability for students and scholars, I should much like to have the assistance of recognized scholars in American History and Government, past and present. That is why I believe that a collection of this kind should be under the supervision of a committee of historians working in cooperation with the Archivist and the Librarian of Congress.
>
> "It is my hope that during my lifetime I will continue to live in the family home at Hyde Park, and if a period collection of this kind is permanently domiciled on what is my own place, I will be able to give assistance to the maintenance of the collection during my lifetime. As I have said before, it is my expectation that while the title to the collections would vest immediately in the Government, my family's house and that portion of the place on which we live would revert to the Government on my death.
>
> "All of this has the approval and consent of my Mother who owns the property during her lifetime.
>
> "I may mention that the place at Hyde Park is located on the New York-Albany Post Road -- two hours from New York City by train or motor, and four and one-half miles from the City of Poughkeepsie, which has good hotel and other accommodations."

Now, don't be -- (laughter) don't slam that last statement.

(Laughter)

Q Mr. President, I am not quite clear. Do you mean the entire Hyde Park estate eventually?

THE PRESIDENT: I mean that portion on which we live, that portion from the Post Road down to the foot of the hill.

MR. EARLY: Some time ago you permitted the announcement to be made that whatever funds you received from newspapers and magazines, from the publication of your papers, would be devoted to what we then phrased as "a national useful purpose."

THE PRESIDENT: And that is where those funds about which there were so many columns written, the mystery fund, that is where it was intended to go from the very beginning and will go, not only my own receipts from the newspapers and magazines and publications, but also all that Judge Samuel I. Rosenman received from the same source. That is to say the net amount.

MR. EARLY: Minus taxes.

THE PRESIDENT: The gross amount less what I have to pay as taxes and what Judge Rosenman has to pay as taxes.

Q What prompted your decision to do this at this particular time?

THE PRESIDENT: I have been thinking about it for the last three years, three or four years. I suppose the amount -- you see, here is one thing about it: The amount of material that I have is so infinitely larger than that of any previous President that it creates a new problem. As I remember it, when we came in here we were told that President Hoover, his mail averaged about four hundred letters a day. My mail has averaged, as you know, about four thousand letters a day. Well, there is all the difference in the world. The result is that just my Presidential files alone are so big that you couldn't possibly put them in any private house and I do not want to put them just into storage.

Q The cataloging of your books has progressed pretty well. Have you any idea, approximately, how many books you have?

THE PRESIDENT: Just on books alone I would estimate about seven thousand here and about seven thousand at Hyde Park.

Q How about the New York house?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, very few, only a few hundred, perhaps a thousand. About fifteen thousand all told. And then, of course, in addition to that, if you get down to the question of pamphlets, I suppose just in my American Navy collection alone there must be of old pamphlets four or five thousand at least in addition and, of course, in my files there are a great many other pamphlets and documents which have been going to files rather than into slip cases -- book cases.

Q Of course this has never been done before in the history of the Government on the collection of papers. We wonder if you took the immediate step because of the recent developments in the past years with respect to the Lincoln papers and the concern felt with respect to those of other Presidents, where there has been a bewildering lack of facts.

THE PRESIDENT: I have been interested in the subject a great many years of what happens to the papers of public officials.

Q We still haven't got Lincoln's papers. Didn't T. R. save his and build a special vault?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, they are in a fireproof storage place in Oyster Bay.

Q Of course his collections are nowhere near as extensive as yours.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, because people did not write as much in those days.

Curiously enough it (referring to T. R.'s collection) covered approximately the same period of years, a little over a quarter of a century, as mine does.

Q There is no reference to the filing of a diary?

THE PRESIDENT: There is not. I think you will find among the papers three diaries that started on the first of January in three different years, far apart. I think the most voluminous one ran to the fourth of January.

Q That is like Mark Twain. He kept it up for a week, got up, washed and went to bed. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I tried it once and it went on for four days, I believe.

Now, I invited to lunch the list which you have here. You know them all or know about them all. There is Ambassador Dodd; President Graham of North Carolina University; Archie MacLeish, a writer, and I think he has been connected with "Time"; Randolph Adams, Librarian of the University of Michigan; Edmund E. Day; Dr. Connor; Dr. Flick, State Historian at Albany; Dr. Charles A. Beard; Professor Frankfurter; Stuart Chase; Samuel Rosenman, who knows more about my papers than anybody else; Ernest Lindley, who has written more about the Administration than anybody else; President Paxson Paxon of the American Historical Association; Dr. Boyd, of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Mrs. Helen Taft Manning, of Bryn Mawr; Miss Marguerite Wells, President of the League of Women Voters; President Mor~~r~~ison, of Harvard University and Frank Walker, of New York.

Q Any idea of the amount of the fund to be raised?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we don't know, but Frank Walker has kindly offered to take charge of that part of it. There will be public subscription. All of this general list, all of these ladies and gentlemen have been good enough to say that they are very keen about it and go along. I am going to ask Professor Mor~~r~~ison, who is here, to say a few words about that because that is their business rather than mine.

PROFESSOR SAMUEL MOR~~R~~ISON: I think I may say that the conference that the President called today was one hundred per cent. favorable to his proposal, especially because we who work in American history know how difficult it is to get at the records of the Presidents and of the lamentable mistakes which have been made in the past in disposing of and dealing with President's records. It has been the custom for every President of the United States, starting with John Adams, the first who lived in this House, to take away all his papers with him and some of them, for instance the records of the two Adamses are shut in a vault in Boston where nobody can get at them.

THE PRESIDENT: Really? I did not know that.

PROFESSOR MOR~~R~~ISON: Nobody allowed in except the family.

Others have generally gone back to the President's old home where they have been subjected to a great deal of dilapidation. The Presidents have sometimes passed their declining years in trying to rearrange them, with unfortunate results because the order of the documents has been entirely spoiled. And their widows have given them away as souvenirs and children have played with them and the rats have eaten them up. After a lapse of years, sometimes two or three generations, they are turned over to the Library of Congress, which is where the Jefferson, the Madison, the Monroe, the Washington and the Grover Cleveland and Theodore Roosevelt papers are now.

But that is an unsatisfactory system because, in the meantime, a great many of the papers have been disposed of. The Lincoln papers, for instance, which somebody mentioned, are scattered in numerous repositories, since Mrs. Lincoln gave them away, and the historian does not know where to turn to find the information he wants.

A great deal of the important evidence has been destroyed, some purposely, others by mere neglect and accident.

Thus President Roosevelt has proposed, for the first time, to keep all of his files intact. Of his predecessors, I believe President Hoover was the first one who did not destroy a considerable part of the White House files at the time he left. President Roosevelt proposes not only to keep his files intact, but to place them immediately under the administration of the National Archivist so that from the time they leave the White House they will be under public control and will not be subject to dilapidation or destruction or anything else. The whole thing will come down in its entirety to the historians of the future.

THE PRESIDENT: Sam, do you want to say anything about the Executive Committee, what we propose to do?

PROFESSOR MORISON: The Advisory Committee today is going to appoint a small Executive Committee to act in collaboration with Dr. Walker (Mr. Frank Walker) to raise the necessary money for the building.

Later I presume another committee will be appointed under the National Archivist to aid him in arranging the collections and the archives.

I have spoken especially of the archives but, of course, equally important are those collections of naval prints and pictures, and the President's collection of naval books and pamphlets, which is much the best collection of United States naval history in private hands today. That is a very important collection in itself and that will be in the building with the rest.

THE PRESIDENT: Sam, do you want to say anything about the Advisory Committee having other people besides pure historians, or in other words, the economists?

PROFESSOR MOR~~R~~ISON: The Advisory Committee today was just the nucleus and to which are going to be added men and women who represent economics, sociology and the various social sciences, that will be interested in these papers equally with historians. The historian of the future will be interested in the economic trends of our day, the social movements in a large sense, just as much as he is in the political history, even more so.

Q Who are the members of that Advisory Committee?

PROFESSOR MOR~~R~~ISON: That was the list that the President gave you. Others, representing the social sciences, for example, will be added to it as it is rather overloaded on the historian side right now.

Q The "mystery" fund you spoke of will be used as a nucleus around which the public subscription will be raised, but you have no estimate?

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

Q Any estimate of that, I mean the amount?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot tell you until I find the amount of my income.

Q I did not understand -- you made it perfectly clear about your income, but you said something about Judge Rosenman?

THE PRESIDENT: The same thing for him; he edited the five volumes.

Q Does this mean there will be any change in your agreement or contract with Random House, who started publication of your State papers?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Did Random House have any agreement with you for publication of your papers?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes; that is any subsequent volumes.

Q This does not end that?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no.

Q Have you thought of the physical aspect of this building? Will it be of colonial style, in keeping with Dutchess County?

THE PRESIDENT: That is a thing we have not got very far on but the general thought on the part of several architects I have thought of is that it should be in keeping with older buildings which are typical of the locality. It should be simple, not high, probably one story, and probably built of field stone, like the older buildings of Dutchess County.

Q The Post Office?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Absolutely simple but, of course, absolutely modern, with fireproofing, and nowadays you have to have air conditioning or you have to have the same temperature in the record room the year round.

(Mrs. Roosevelt entered the room at this point and spoke to the President.)

THE PRESIDENT: I have to dedicate a piano now.

Q How many acres in that part of the estate which will eventually go to the Government?

THE PRESIDENT: A hundred acres.

Q Which will leave how much which does not go?

THE PRESIDENT: I have a farm away over on the other side of the road, way back and that has five or six hundred acres in it.

Q I thought your estate was more than a hundred acres where the family house is?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no. You see my sister-in-law's place is next door.

MR. STORM: Thank you, sir.

Q This, of course, will be private during your lifetime?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no; Oh, my, no.

Q The minute you leave here it goes to the public?

THE PRESIDENT: As soon as they can get it arranged.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #509
Executive Offices of the White House,
December 13, 1938, 4.09 P.M.

Q (Mr. Mahoney) In the absence of Fred (Storm), we have nominated May Craig to sit down.

Q (Mr. Godwin) Provided she won't ask any question about Quoddy.

THE PRESIDENT: You are elected, May, it is all right.

Q (Mr. Young) You sit down and do not ask a question, May.

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose this carries in place of the Gridiron Dinner?

Q (Miss Craig) Did I hear anything?

THE PRESIDENT: Did you hear applause and cheers?

Q (Miss Craig) No, sir.

Q (Mr. Young) Sit there and don't say a word.

THE PRESIDENT: We are sort of rubbing it in, aren't we, May?

Q (Mr. Godwin) She is going to get to say, "Thank you, Mr. President."

THE PRESIDENT: Where is Ray Clapper? I have not congratulated him yet.

Q Here he is.

THE PRESIDENT: Hello, Ray, congratulations. Ray, nevertheless, I am glad I do not have to make a speech.

Q Is that so?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Are you sure? (Laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have only got one thing and that isn't very exciting.

I have by letter today increased the amount that can be loaned on insured mortgages by the Federal Housing Administration from two billion dollars to three billion dollars. They are coming close to the end of their original power, up to two millions, and they think because they are constantly insuring more mortgages that it should be extended, and under the original Act I have the authority to extend it to three billion and I am doing it. That is all there is. Mac (Mr. McIntyre) has got the mimeographed copies of the letter to me and the authority that I am giving him.

Q Mr. President, why is it this donkey over here (indicating) has elephant ears?

THE PRESIDENT: Which one?

Q The one there (indicating).

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, those are not elephant ears. You don't know your zoology.

Q They are pretty big.

Q Can you tell us anything about your talk with Mr. Anthony Eden?

THE PRESIDENT: No, we agreed that we had a very pleasant conversation, talk, about many things, and because I knew that he was going to the Press Club afterwards I knew he would tell you everything he told me so that anything further would be unnecessary. (Laughter)

Q Some of us were not there.

THE PRESIDENT: I know. Isn't that a shame? (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about your talk today with Assistant Secretary of the Navy Charles Edison?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, just the usual every month or six weeks talk over general things. Nothing in particular.

Q Mr. President, it is understood that Senator Guffey has recommended Judge Musmano for the vacancy on the Third Circuit?

THE PRESIDENT: I did not know anything about it. He must have recommended him to the Attorney General.

Q How are you making out with your appointments?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, they are gradually coming to a head. Isn't that what we call it?

Q Progress?

THE PRESIDENT: That is what happens to a boil. (Laughter)

Q Is it as painful as that? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Very nearly.

Q They have to be picked, don't they?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that is the trouble.

Q Secretary Morgenthau said yesterday he was studying the possibility of making loans to Latin American countries. Can you add anything to that?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I do not think there is anything new to be added to it.

Q Will you comment on the cotton and tobacco referendums held last week?

THE PRESIDENT: I think what the Secretary of Agriculture said was about right.

Q How is your legislative program coming on?

THE PRESIDENT: All right.

Q Meeting any opposition or getting any advice?

THE PRESIDENT: Lots of advice and no opposition. (Laughter)

Q When will you see Vice President Garner?

THE PRESIDENT: I think he is getting here Saturday.

Q Can you tell us about the advice you are getting?

THE PRESIDENT: No; they always tell you first, so it is all right.

Q Mr. President, do you know about the prepaid medical service plan that the District of Columbia Medical Association is proposing?

THE PRESIDENT: No. What is it, sort of a slot machine? (Laughter)

Q No, it is so much for the family under $2500.00 income.

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, how is your Christmas Tree business this year?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think it is all right. I am selling about a thousand trees this year.

Q About a thousand?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Are they good price?

THE PRESIDENT: About like last year.

Q (Mr. Young, nudging Miss Craig's arm) Hurry up and say "Thank you." (Laughter)

MISS CRAIG: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Following the conference one of the reporters asked the President whether there had been anything special in his conference with Mr. Splawn, Chairman of the I.C.C. The President indicated that the discussion had been general and also indicated that he expected a report on the railroad situation sometime around the end of this week.)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #510,
Executive Offices of the White House,
December 16, 1938, 10.42 A.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Where is Fred?

Q Rochester, on his vacation.

THE PRESIDENT: Felix (Belair) off on a vacation, too?

Q Yes, sir; winter vacation.

THE PRESIDENT: It is a good time to get it.

Q (Mr. Godwin) They just had a vacation.

You should have seen the headlines of Mrs. Patterson on the story down there (at the site of the Jefferson Memorial). The second line read, "Makes no mention of cherry trees." (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I will have to give you a local story this morning.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

Q Do you have one?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I will have to give you one on trees.

The front row is tree-minded again this morning. I had, in the last two or three weeks, quite a number of letters suggesting that we ought to have something besides Japanese cherry trees in Washington and they all seemed to concentrate on American dogwood, so the Park Service is planning for the planting of a very large number of American dogwood, both the white and pink variety, in the area west of the cherry trees. What is that? -- well, from Seventeenth Street north clear up to the brewery (laughter), the Georgetown bridge, and we hope to get that planting started this spring.

Q In connection with that, Arno Cammerer was speaking to us about planting dogwood up the Canal. Does that come in on it?

THE PRESIDENT: The same thing.

Q Do you know about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Just heard about it, that is all, and also eventually that that will be a new parkway, the line of the old B. & O. Canal.

Q Any five to three ratio with respect to dogwood (as against Japanese cherry trees)? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No, Fred (Wile). Considering our age we might call it sixteen to one. (Laughter)

Q That will start soon?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, have you decided as yet on any of the Federal Judgeships that have not been filled?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I thought I had one yesterday but I did not.

Q Any of the new Cabinet Officers?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet; not this morning.

Q When do you expect -- may we have any idea as to when to expect the Cabinet and Supreme Court appointments?

THE PRESIDENT: I couldn't tell you. It is safer for me not to set a date for it.

Q Any more resignations in the Cabinet?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of. (Laughter)

Q Mr. President, will the vacancy on the Home Loan Bank Board be filled?

THE PRESIDENT: Very soon, yes.

Q There have been reports that Governor Murphy, of Michigan, is going to be appointed in some kind of a position.

THE PRESIDENT: I have read a great many reports. I hate to characterize them as newspaper stories.

Q Mr. President, have you definitely decided one way or the other on this idea of Government aircraft factories?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet.

Q Returning to the trees, are you still going through with the planting of those thousand cherry trees?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, did you discuss with Senator Pittman yesterday anything concerning neutrality or spies?

THE PRESIDENT: All kinds of things. The trouble is that if I were to mention one or two it would be unfair to the other subjects.

Q When will you confer with Vice President Garner?

THE PRESIDENT: Tomorrow he is coming to lunch and we are going to lunch with the new Executive Committee about the records building at Hyde Park and then, after the lunch, I will confer with about six or seven of them and then after that the Vice President and I will have our talk while the Executive Committee is talking about historic records.

Q Mr. President, I would like to ask if Mrs. Roosevelt's what you might call official papers will be included in your records?

THE PRESIDENT: We have not got to that; have not discussed it yet.

Q Can you tell us anything about your appointment yesterday with the Philippine representative, Mr. Osmeña?

THE PRESIDENT: No. You know what his mission here is. We are all in favor of the plan which has been worked out by the Commission, which will be submitted to the Congress, I suppose probably the first week.

Q Mr. President, you probably recall Luther Steward and half a dozen leaders of Government employees associated with him. They visited you and they told us that they had endorsed a portion of your reorganization scheme. Can you add anything to that or is there anything you want to say?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except there is no difference of opinion between us on objectives in regard to Civil Service.

Q Are you in a position or do you care to discuss Ambassador Wilson's traveling plan?

THE PRESIDENT: No; no news.

Q On that Civil Service, would you call a one-man commission an objective?

THE PRESIDENT: I think, Pete (Brandt), if you will stick to objectives it would be better. It is safer.

Q The objectives then have nothing to do with the personnel?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, on that Philippine report, will that go up in your regular Message or by special Message?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that will be a special Message because there are an enormous number of documents, five volumes, that go with it.

Q When will you see Ambassador Kennedy?

THE PRESIDENT: This afternoon, right after Cabinet.

MISS CRAIG: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #511,
Executive Offices of the White House,
December 20, 1938, 4.10 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: This is especially for the benefit of the ladies (referring to a Commission which he was in the act of signing).

Q What is it?

THE PRESIDENT: It is for American womanhood.

Q There is a sentiment in the correspondents' group for no Press Conference on Friday.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there? Where is the Dean?

Q He is ill. Earl Godwin is home, and the three Press Associations have substitutes. Just a few of us carrying on.

THE PRESIDENT: What is the matter with Earl? Is he sick, too?

Q He has been sick two days; he has been off the air for two days. I talked to Mrs. Godwin this morning and she thinks he will be back tomorrow.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I will tell you my schedule and then face the questions. I will give you all my engagements as far as I know them. Tonight I am having the Director of the Budget in and various other people, the Secretary of the Treasury, et cetera, to work on the budget. General proposition, nothing specific. And probably again -- what is tomorrow? -- Wednesday -- and probably again on Thursday. Tomorrow we are having a Cabinet meeting instead of Friday and there are not any appointments, except this one (indicating the Commission on his desk) that I have got here on my desk. If there are any further, if any come up between now and after

Christmas, they will be just announcements. I have nothing ready yet.

The question is, Do you want a Press Conference Friday, or not? I have no other news, literally.

Q No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Let us call it off Friday and buy our Christmas presents.

The appointment (indicating Commission on desk) is Mrs. Ellen S. Woodward, of Mississippi, to be a member of the Social Security Board in place of Miss Mary Dewson.

If I were a lady writer, I would say, perhaps, "This is creating a precedent for all time -- one woman on the Social Security Board." Now, that does not come from me, it comes from you.

Q How long is that term?

THE PRESIDENT: The balance of that particular term; I think it has five years to run.

Q I may be behindhand, but I did not know Miss Dewson had resigned.

THE PRESIDENT: No?

Q Why did she resign?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it was because she could not stand it -- the pace, I mean. I think she felt that the work was too much. She was awfully sorry to have to do it. No question of disagreement or anything like that.

Q She looked very ill.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Anybody to replace Mrs. Woodward on WPA?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing yet.

Q Do you anticipate filling the vacancy that will exist in the Department of Commerce by Friday?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. In the first place, I think it does not exist until midnight Friday night.

Q Have you any plans, Mr. President, for Senator Brown of New Hampshire?

THE PRESIDENT: No; no other appointments in sight.

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about your conference Saturday with the Vice President?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing more than what he told you.

Q It was not much. (Laughter)

Q He said he had forgotten it. Does that mean that you forgot also?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I think that is what we agreed to say.

Q Mr. President, have you read the report of the Social Security Advisory Council?

THE PRESIDENT: Not the whole report; only the summary.

Q Any comment on it?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Will there be any more legislative conferences between now and January?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, yes; without any question.

Q One at a time, or in a group?

THE PRESIDENT: Either a group or one at a time. It depends on what we talk about and their desires. I do not know. I will probably see all of them next week a couple of times.

Q Rayburn is due tomorrow. Are you seeing him?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes; I suppose I will see him then, if he comes, and I think the Speaker is due before Christmas.

Q He is due tomorrow.

Q He is due tomorrow and Rayburn the day after.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. No use hanging around because they will say also that they have forgotten. We are making it a standard phrase between now and the third of January.

Q Have you read that report of the committee that Miss (Josephine) Roche --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, only the summary.

Q Any comment on the Labor Non-partisan League's plan to select delegates to the 1940 Convention?

THE PRESIDENT: What is that?

Q Lewis announced it on Saturday; it is for their own convention.

THE PRESIDENT: I only read the headlines, that is all.

Just a word of caution on social security and the health reports: Do not go out on the limb and say that all of the details are going to be recommended by me for specific action. I, undoubtedly, am going to recommend, on social security, the objectives of the report. In the case of health, which is still in the study stage, I will transmit that to the Congress for their information and for such further study as they may want to make on it. That is a pretty young child, you know, the health end of it.

Q Is it a fair question to ask if you anticipate any Message on increasing non-contributory pensions?

THE PRESIDENT: No, only what they have said on it. Their comments, that is all. No recommendations.

Q Mr. President, at the time Administrator Hopkins announced the general curtailment of WPA, he said the curtailment would be accomplished by the absorption of cases in private industry. Since that time, with particular reference to Pennsylvania, there have been reports that people are being forced back on direct relief. Is that because other projects have not been started up to absorb those people, or are they going to be continued to be left on the dole?

THE PRESIDENT: You did a very good thing; you put six questions in one. I could not tell you; I do not know enough about it.

Q You could not discuss the future of WPA?

THE PRESIDENT: No, especially in relation to one particular locality. You cannot generalize on WPA.

Q You saw Stanley Bruce of Australia today. Can you tell us anything about your conversation?

THE PRESIDENT: No. We have met before. We talked about a great many things, all the five continents of the world and then some.

Q Did you find any mutual interest in a trade agreement? He seemed interested in that.

THE PRESIDENT: If you won't print it, I will tell you the truth. (Laughter) We never mentioned trade agreement.

Q Mr. President, the group headed by Louis Johnson that you saw yesterday, refers us to you for the subject of their conversations.

THE PRESIDENT: I think I will have something for you on that next Monday or Tuesday. It has to do with preparedness.

Miss Craig: Thank you, Mr. President.

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December 27, 1938, 4.10 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Fred, are you back on deck?

Q (Mr. Storm) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Is the president of the Association still laid up?

Q He is here, on one leg. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: On one leg? What do you mean? Are you all right again? Russell says you have only one leg. (Laughter)

Q The other one is being hollowed out for the New Year. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: You've got both wings?

Q (Mr. Godwin) Yes, sir. (Laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: We are making the announcement today at the Civil Aeronautics Authority -- they have the full statement -- I will give you a summary of it. (Reading)

> "As a means of stimulating private flying in the United States and creating a valuable national defense reservoir by increasing the number of trained airmen in this country, the Civil Aeronautics Authority has developed what it believes to be a practicable plan for the annual training of 20,000 civilian pilots.
>
> "This program will be carried out --"

We will say that we will recommend that it be carried out --

> "as a vocational training project, utilizing existing educational institutions and present facilities of the aviation industry. As an immediate test of its practicability and in order to develop a sound pattern which later can be applied on a nation-wide scale, it is proposed to inaugurate the Authority's pilot training program as a National Youth Administration project during the second semester of the present school year in not to exceed a dozen --"

Probably there will be only nine or ten --

> "selected educational centers throughout the United States.
>
> "These centers will be chosen on the basis of pioneering work already done in aviation training by the universities and colleges concerned, and also with a view to giving the experiment a proper geographical spread.
>
> "If this practical try-out --"

During the last half of this college year --

> "of the program confirms belief in its soundness, it will be put into effect on a nation-wide scale in several hundred colleges and universities during the 1939-1940 school year. It is estimated that the cost of the first full-scale one year training program for 20,000 pilots will be $9,800,000.
>
> "The increasing importance of aviation, both as an economic factor in American life and as a necessary back-log to the national defense, amply justify its inclusion in a federally sponsored vocational training program."

The initial cost of training during this experimental period -- training 300 pilots during the period between now and next July is not over $100,000.

Q Where does that money come from?

THE PRESIDENT: The National Youth Administration.

Q Have you got the planes to train them -- training planes?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we will rent the planes. They are in existence.

Q From whom, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I suppose people who own them. I don't know.

Q Is that something you can put into effect now with N.Y.A. funds?

THE PRESIDENT: As an experimental period.

Q Did you say, sir, that this is to be given out by Civil Aeronautics?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and then they have for you over there at Civil

Aeronautics four and a half pages.

Q Will that require additional legislation, new legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: It will require appropriations.

Q Just appropriations?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Will it require any change in the relief requirements, that is to say in the way people are certified for this training? In other words, will people who are not actually in need be certifiable to take this training?

THE PRESIDENT: That depends on what the legislation says.

Q Well, under the existing --

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Under the existing rules it would be under the N. Y. A. procedure.

Q It would eventually require an enormous number of planes for 1939?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Again, the idea is not for the Government to go in and buy these training planes. The Civil Aeronautics Authority thinks there are enough private planes in existence for the Government to rent them.

Q Will this be under the direction of Army and Navy fliers?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Will it go on from year to year?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q As it is expanded, that would call for the standard production of a particular type of training plane? That would tend to bring about standardized production?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I suppose so.

Q Have the first institutions been selected?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think they are ready to announce them yet but, as you know, there are quite a lot of colleges and universities that have gone in for this study of flying and probably the first selected will be from that group.

Q The $9,800,000., is that the actual cost?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, for training 20,000 pilots.

Q How long will each student be trained?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. You had better check -- I think it is six months.

Q Will they be trained in combat tactics?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no; that is a different thing. This is civil aviation, so as to get their regular pilots' licenses. They will be given the same examination as a pilot, which is probably a very stiff one; probably nobody in this room could pass it, therefore we are all out. But younger and more vigorous people will be able to pass that examination. (Laughter)

Q Will additional instructors be assigned to these schools?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Will they just be engaged and paid or will they be assigned from the Army --

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose the Army and Navy, and also hired from civil life. In other words, all sources.

Q After the preparedness training, what will be the special disposition of these trained men?

THE PRESIDENT: The idea is that probably the best ones, a certain proportion of them, will go into the Army and Navy Reserve. Of course that means further instruction, go down to Pensacola, to

Texas. They would form a reservoir for both the Army and the Navy, but a comparatively small percentage of the 20,000 each year would go into the Army and Navy for further training in military work. The great bulk will be civilian pilots.

Q Have you any figure as to the numbers? You would have 20,000 this year and 20,000 the year thereafter; do you calculate on a top figure of 100,000?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Will these be all pilots or some of them aviation mechanics?

THE PRESIDENT: These are pilots. Aviation mechanics is a different story. We are not ready yet.

Q How closely does that connect with the number of airplanes estimated for national defense?

THE PRESIDENT: You would have to be an Einstein to write a story from figures I have given you today.

Q What about the 13,500 planes in the stories today?

THE PRESIDENT: So far, there has been no decision made. That is all I can say. And there won't be, I believe, for another week.

Q There has been something in the press to the effect that the Lima Conference has been a failure. Can you comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think it was a very, very great success.

Q Mr. President, did you discuss the Latin American relations with Cardinal Mundelein today?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Anything to be said about his visit?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q There was a story appeared in the papers this morning that Secretary

Morgenthau was about to resign, also Secretary of War Woodring?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Can you confirm those reports?

THE PRESIDENT: Just another story. I won't put the adjective on it. You can.

Q Mr. President, will you comment further as to why, particularly, you think the Lima Conference has been a great success?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they accomplished what they went down to accomplish and I call that pretty successful.

Q Is Senator Brown being considered for the Comptroller Generalship?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I will do anything about any decisions on appointments until about next Tuesday.

Q Mr. President, can you comment on the transportation report which was delivered here Friday?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I suppose I will send various things up to the Congress sometime later on. I have not written anything.

Q Mr. President, have you selected the successor to Attorney General Cummings?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. I just answered that question when I said I would not make any decisions on appointments probably until next Tuesday. I might beat that by a day and make it Monday.

Q Have you Governor Murphy in mind?

THE PRESIDENT: I have fifty-two -- no, what is it? fifty-seven varieties.

Q Representative (Ross) Collins was in to see you today. He is Chairman of the Committee on District Appropriations. I understand he discussed them with you. Can you go into any details?

THE PRESIDENT: We talked about two things, Russell (Young), and there were several other things that we did not talk about that I am equally interested in. We talked about the need for training more colored nurses at Freedmen's Hospital, because there is a definite shortage of colored nurses, and we talked about improving the very bad conditions in -- what do they call it? -- the girls' reformatory.

Q Bad conditions where?

THE PRESIDENT: What is the technical name?

Q The Girls' Reform School.

Q The Girls' Training School.

Q What was the other thing?

THE PRESIDENT: The general improvement of hospital conditions in the District. I did not get as far as that; I did not have time.

Q You did not discuss that?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q What is the other, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: General health conditions.

Q Are you planning on the reorganization of the Communications Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Can you tell us anything about your recent conference with Commissioner Payne?

THE PRESIDENT: He was not well and is going away for two or three weeks to recuperate.

Q Would you like to go into a little more detail on what you call general health in Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: I cannot go into detail but I can say that none of us, I think, are satisfied with health conditions in this city. They are not as good as conditions in the Nation's Capital ought to be.

Q Is that based on the health rate?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, the death rate and the conditions of tuberculosis and a great many other things, -- facilities for medical care of all kinds.

Q Is Mr. Payne resigning?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

Q There is being organized a new effort, and it will concentrate here sometime early in January, an effort to have the Spanish embargo lifted. Would you care to discuss that?

THE PRESIDENT: I never heard of it.

Q They will be down to see you, or Secretary McIntyre, very shortly, I understand.

Q Mr. President, did you give Ross Collins any specific antidote for those bad health conditions?

THE PRESIDENT: No. He is going to talk to quite a number of people in the course of the next week and will come down again in the course of the next ten days to talk them over with me.

Q The question of group health?

THE PRESIDENT: That did not come up.

Q Was Federal contribution discussed at all?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Or taxes.

MR. STORM: Thank you, Mr. President.